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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 February Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Shams al-Din on 'Progress' of Arab League Talks *[KUNA]* 3
Saddam Husayn, Mubarak, Salih on Arab Council *[INA]* 3
Shevardnadze Visits Syria, Jordan, Egypt *[cross-reference]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf Urges 'Coexistence' in Tape to Israelis *[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Feb]* 6
Radio Free Lebanon on Tape 8
Islamic Jihad To 'Take Revenge' on Rushdie *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
Al-Husayni Discusses Elections, 'Uprising' *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 18 Feb]* 8
PNC Speaker on Ties with Syria, U.S. Stand *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 19 Feb]* 9
Shevardnadze Tour, U.S. 'Stalling' Examined *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Cabinet on ACC Accord, Tabah 15 Mar Withdrawal *[MENA]* 11
Shevardnadze, Israel's Arens Meet in Cairo 11
Comment on Talks *[MENA]* 11
Arens Departs Cairo 22 Feb *[MENA]* 12
Further on Shevardnadze Meetings With Officials 12
Envoy on Visit *[MENA]* 12
Confers With Al-Mahjub *[MENA]* 13
PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Continues Visit to Cairo 14
Comments on Elections Issue *[MENA]* 14
Meets With Shevardnadze *[MENA]* 14
Comments on Meeting *[MENA]* 14
Meets With 'Abd al-Majid *[MENA]* 14
Comments on Talks 15
Al-Azhar Imam Asks Rebuttal to Rushdie in Book *[Radio Free Lebanon]* 15

Libya

Memorandum on 'Satanic Verses' Sent to ICO *[JANA]* 15

Sudan

Army Gives Government 1-Week Ultimatum *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Al-Mahdi Meets With Generals *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Government Confirms SPLA Attack on Juba *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Libyan Armed Forces Commander Arrives 18 Feb *[Khartoum Radio]* 16
Meets With Prime Minister *[SUNA]* 16
Holds News Conference *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Visits Al-Mirghani *[JANA]* 17
Conveys Peace Proposal *[JANA]* 17

Rebels Deny Halting Red Cross Relief Operations *[Radio SPLA]* 17
Red Cross To Resume Flights *[Berne International]* 17
Drug Operation Called 'Biggest' in History *[Khartoum Radio]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Authorities Ban Publication of 'Satanic Verses' *[Tehran Radio]* 18
Amir Comments on Arab Cooperation Council *[Amman Radio]* 18
Afghan Envoy Interviewed on Efforts To End War *[KUNA]* 18
Drug Addiction Reportedly 'Not Widespread' *[ARAB TIMES 19 Feb]* 18

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Cited on Afghan Situation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Feb]* 19
Government Fulfills Financial Pledge to PLO *[KUNA]* 19

United Arab Emirates

PLO's Qaddumi Delivers Message to President *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 19
Briefs Defense Minister *[WAKH]* 19
Departs 21 Feb *[WAKH]* 20
Egypt's Mubarak Confers With Deputy Premier *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 20
Speaks on Meeting *[MENA]* 20
Departs 22 Feb *[WAKH]* 21

IRAQ

More on Tariq 'Aziz 21 Feb News Conference *[INA]* 22
Saddam Husayn Presides Over Cabinet Meeting *[INA]* 23
75 More POW's Return Home From Iran *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
78 More POW's Return *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

Arens, Shevardnadze Agree 'To Advance' Relations *[HADASHOT 23 Feb]* 24
Shamir: No Soviet Role Until Ties Reestablished *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Shamir Discusses Meeting With Mitterrand *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Pazner Denies Shamir To Meet With Moroccan King *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
PLO Leader Advocates Coexistence in Videotape *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
More on 'Direct Peace Appeal' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Dissident Condemns Khalaf *[Jerusalem International]* 26
Al-Husayni: New State 'Need Not Have an Army' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Feb]* 26
UK's Howe on Mideast, Upcoming Waldegrave Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Chief of Staff Returns From Visit to U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Gur Rejects Suggestions To Meet With 'Arafat *[MA'ARIV 19 Feb]* 27
Golan Heights Druze Granted New Privileges *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Feb]* 28
Rabin: Palestinians 'Willing To Go on Suffering' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Rabin: No 'Magic Solution' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Rabin Denies 'Dozens' of Minors Among Casualties *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Feb]* 28
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 29
2 Druze Attempt Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
2 Wounded in Gaza Strip *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Update on 21, 22 Feb Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Feb]* 29
West Bank Curfews Lifted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Gaza Boys School Closed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
2 Reservists Imprisoned *[MA'ARIV 23 Feb]* 30
New Military Police Commander Named *[DAVAR 20 Feb]* 30

JORDAN

Soviet Ambassador Comments on Shevardnadze Visit *[JORDAN TIMES 23-24 Feb]* 31
Contacts on Al-'Aqabah Crossing Point Denied *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 32
All Political Prisoners Now Said Released *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Feb]* 32

LEBANON

Islamic Jihad Threatens Revenge in Rushdie Case *[VOL]* 33
Further on Jihad Statement *[AFP]* 33
Islamic Jihad Hints at Hostage Release Delay *[AFP]* 33
Lebanese Forces Surrender Beirut Port Area *[AFP]* 33
To Close Beirut Port Dock *[RFL]* 34
To Vacate Checkpoint *[VOL]* 34
Attack on Syrian Position in Tripoli Claimed *[RFL]* 34

SYRIA

U.S. Congressman Aspin Meets Al-Asad 23 Feb *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Meets Foreign Minister *[SANA]* 35
Khaddam Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni, Al-Huss *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Foreign Minister Receives Bulgarian Official *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Cabinet Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues *[Damascus Radio]* 35
AL-THAWRAH Cited on Defense Strategy *[Damascus Radio]* 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Leaders Reportedly Agree on Government *[AFP]* 36
Vote on President, Premier *[AFP]* 36
Iran-Based Mujahidin Reject Coalition With Kabul *[IRNA]* 36
Envoy to Japan Lauds Government Forces' Ability *[Tokyo KYODO]* 37
'Abdul Wakil Sends Letter to Armand Hammer *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Najibullah Receives Convoy's Security Units *[BAKHTAR]* 38
Najibullah Sends Messages to World Leaders *[BAKHTAR]* 38
Further on Messages *[BAKHTAR]* 38
Mujahidin Capture Garrison in Takhar Province *[Islamabad Radio]* 39
Explosives Seized in Kabul, Other Cities *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Kabul Radio Details Recent Security Operations 40
More Explosives Seized in Kabul 40
21 Feb Operations 40
22 Feb Military Situation 40
Notes Nos 219, 220 Submitted to UN Mission *[BAKHTAR]* 41

Bangladesh

Party Rally Demands Hanging of Author Rushdie *[AFP]* 41

India

Reportage on Visit by Turkey's President Evren 42
Arrives for 5-Day Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Meets With Venkataraman *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Holds Talks With Gandhi *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Makes Banquet Speeches *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Letters Exchanged Following Gandhi PRC Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Parliament Debates Bhopal Tragedy Compensation *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Victims Stage Protest *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Spokesman on Stand Against Division of Assam *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Rajasthan Bans Strike in 'Essential Services' *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Minister Briefs Parliament on Kashmir Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

Khomeyni Issues Message to Religious Authorities *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Reiterates Sentence on Rushdie *[IRNA]* 48
Majlis Deputies Support Message *[Tehran TV]* 48
Further on Majlis Support *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Musavi Explains Dispute With EEC Countries *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Assails 'Feeble Reaction' *[IRNA]* 50
Baku Commentary Calls EEC Move 'Unprincipled' *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Khamene'i Says 'Arrow' on Way to Rushdie *[AFP]* 51
Khamene'i Arrives on 2-Day Visit to Romania *[cross-reference]* 51
Editorial on Implications of Ties With U.S. *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Feb]* 51
Montazeri Comments on 'Anti-Islamic Propaganda' *[IRNA]* 52
Information Ministry Official on Amnesty *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Ex-Prisoners Express Allegiance to Khomeyni *[Tehran Radio]* 52
More on Resolution *[IRNA]* 52
Assassination Order Meets 'Negative Reaction' *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 53

Pakistan

Punjab Chief Minister Charges PPP 'Conspiracy' *[AFP]* 54
Punjab Government Seen Inciting Riots *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Minister Comments on Afghan Missile Threat *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Jet Trainer Developed With PRC Assistance *[THE MUSLIM 10 Feb]* 54
75 F-7 Fighters To Be Purchased From PRC *[THE MUSLIM 11 Feb]* 55
First Satellite Ready For Launching *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Heroin, Hashish Seized by Customs at Peshawar *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Bid To Smuggle 13,000 Kilos of Hashish Foiled *[AFP]* 56

Sri Lanka

Indians To Stay Until Police Force Established *[AFP]* 56
President Premadasa Addresses New Ministers *[LANKAPUVATH]* 57
Bomb Blast Kills Two in Colombo 21 Feb *[AFP]* 58

23 February Middle East and South Asia Review

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Iran

In another statement on Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared that "God wanted" the book to be published at this time so that the world of "conceit, arrogance, and barbarism would bare its true face" and Iranians would stop thinking "simplistically." The issue of the "blasphemous" book is an "example" to those in Iran who advocate a revision of policies and admission of mistakes, who believe that extremist slogans have led to Iran's isolation, and who think that if Iran acts in a pragmatic way, the West will "humanely reciprocate."

Khomeyni's message, which was addressed to Iranian religious authorities and reported by Tehran radio, also expressed concern about the existence of "some people" in the religious seminaries who are acting against the revolution and Islam. Such people pretend to be pious but are striking "heavy blows" at the roots of religion. He described them as "deceptive snakes with colorful skins" and as "propagators of U.S. Islam." In contrast, the "true clergy" will never be reconciled with "parasitic capitalists," he maintained.

Khomeyni also criticized the "liberals" and the "damage" their policies inflicted on Iran at the start of the revolution. "As long as I am around I shall not allow the government to fall into the hands of the liberals," he said, promising to "cut off the hands of the agents of the United States and the Soviet Union." Iranian leaders must not act in the "wrong way" just to satisfy a handful of "liberal sell-outs," he stressed.

A group of Majlis deputies subsequently sent Khomeyni a letter praising his "crushing message," Tehran radio noted. The letter called on those responsible for foreign policy to present Khomeyni's views on the Rushdie affair as Iran's "final word," and also stressed the need to maintain the policy of "keeping aloof from the Great Satan." In remarks in Belgrade cited by IRNA, President 'Ali Khamene'i said there is "no solution" to the Rushdie affair, adding that "an arrow has been shot, and is unerringly aimed at its target."

Khamene'i later flew to Bucharest where he held talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, IRNA noted.

Shevardnadze Tour

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat discussed "specific measures" to prepare for an international conference and noted the need to make the mechanism of the UN Security Council operate "more actively," TASS disclosed in a report on their 22 February meeting in Cairo. The two sides also expressed hope that Israel will change its stand on the idea of holding an international peace conference and will "cooperate constructively" with the UN Security Council to prepare for such a conference.

In his earlier meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Shevardnadze expressed hope that Israel has not yet spoken its last word on participation in a conference and on talks with the PLO, TASS noted. He told Arens that "positive tendencies" are gathering strength in the world and are creating a favorable background for a "decisive breakthrough" in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. The ministers agreed to continue the Soviet-Israeli dialogue at various levels, TASS said, and a meeting between "experts" from the two sides will take place shortly.

Commenting on the meeting in remarks cited by Jerusalem radio, Arens said that Israel and the USSR must "expand the circle of dialogue" and "create a basis of understanding and perhaps even agreement." A report on the talks by Israel's HADASHOT stated that the two sides agreed to expand the consular delegations in each country and make them permanent delegations.

Shevardnadze subsequently gave an address at the headquarters of the NDP, Egypt's ruling party, stating that the USSR would like Israel to know that if it opts for an international conference and agrees to enter into a dialogue with the PLO, this could enable the Soviet Union and Israel to move toward the restoration of full diplomatic relations, MENA reported.

However, in an interview with Jerusalem television, Arens said he told Shevardnadze that the Soviet Union should not pose any preconditions for a resumption of relations. Arens stressed that Israel's main aim now is to resume dialogue with the USSR and the Arabs. Asked about Israel's planned peace initiative, he said it should not contain any "final drawing" of the map which Israel wishes to reach through negotiations because the "final border lines" can be achieved only through negotiations.

Israel

Shamir in France—The French prime minister warned Israel of the "dangers of marking time" in the Middle East peace process, and called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to act in accordance with "the reality of today," AFP reported. Shamir declared on French television that "Israel knows exactly and better than others how to attain peace," and that "any step which adds to 'Arafat's importance and prestige strengthens violence" in the region, the agency noted.

PLO Message—In a videotaped message to the International Committee for Peace meeting in Jerusalem reported by THE JERUSALEM POST, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf called on the Israelis to begin "direct talks" with the Palestinians, adding that the agreement reached between the two sides could be

presented to an international conference to provide security guarantees. "Our covenant and yours can be discussed" in direct talks, he declared, but Israel should recognize that "two peoples and two states must coexist on this land."

Lebanon

Revenge Threat—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine threatened to take "revenge" on all those involved in the "anti-Islamic campaign" concerning the Salman Rushdie controversy, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The threat was contained in a handwritten statement accompanied by a photograph of three U.S. professors kidnapped in January, 1987.

LF Withdrawal—The Lebanese Forces (LF) will close its positions in the fifth dock of the port of Beirut 23 February as a "goodwill gesture," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. According to AFP, the LF also agreed to withdraw from all checkpoints on the edge of the area it controls.

Jordan

All political prisoners in Jordan have been released in accordance with an amnesty decision by King Husayn, the interior minister told London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. The 30 people released on 19 February constituted all the prisoners detained for political or security reasons, he said.

Sudan

The Armed Forces submitted a "strongly worded" memorandum to the head of state and the prime minister giving them 1 week to solve the country's problems, Omdurman National Unity radio reported. The memorandum called on State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to form a national government that will have "clear and decisive" policies. According to MENA, the memorandum identified four main areas for consideration: the deteriorating economic situation, the deteriorating security situation, the need for a "balanced" foreign policy, and the need for internal unity.

Al-Mahdi cancelled his visit to Tokyo for the late emperor's funeral to follow "political and security developments" in the country, Omdurman radio reported.

Iran-Iraq POW's

A third group of disabled Iraqi POW's was released and flown home 23 February, IRNA reported. The total number of POW's released is now 233, the agency added.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Shura—The shura commission tasked with breaking the deadlock over the interim Aghan government failed to persuade resistance leaders to endorse the commision's proposal to include the seven alliance leaders in the proposed cabinet, AFP reported. The agency added later that delegates to the shura meeting in Rawalpindi are voting 23 February to elect a president and a prime minister, as suggested by the commission.

Wakil Letter—Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil appealed to U.S. industrialist Dr Armand Hammer to use his "wide influence" in the United States to end arms supplies to the mujahidin, Kabul radio reported. Wakil asserted that U.S. President George Bush's recent remarks on arms supplies were "contrary to the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords," while Pakistan's "negative and unconstructive" stand prevents the formation of a broad-based coalition government.

Pakistan

The federal government has taken all necessary measures for the country's defense in view of Afghanistan's deployment of Scud missiles on the border, Federal Minister Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi declared at a National Assembly session in remarks reported by Islamabad radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Shams al-Din on 'Progress' of Arab League Talks

LD2202215489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1935 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 22 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad affirmed here Wednesday that the third stage of the Arab League Committee on Lebanon will be contacting the Lebanese political leaderships.

Shaykh Sabah, chairman of the Arab Committee, added in a statement to reporters following conclusion of the committee's broad session here Wednesday night that the third stage is to start soon during which the committee will work out its points of view based on deliberations at that stage.

Shaykh Sabah will hold on Thursday a press conference in Bayan Palace at 9:30 AM to speak of the committee's mission at the second stage.

On the other hand, head of the Shi'ite Supreme Council Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din affirmed that the committee has achieved great accomplishments on the way to resolving the Lebanese crisis.

Shams al-Din, on his behalf and other participating delegates, expressed deep appreciation to the state of Kuwait for hosting the deliberations and its endeavours on the Lebanese problem.

"We have overcome many complications pertaining to the view of different parties with regard to various aspects of the Lebanese crisis," he said.

He added that the new stages to come will witness more progress in addition to the accomplishments that have already been achieved by the committee.

The Lebanese spiritual leaders and the committee's members are expected to leave here Thursday noon.

Saddam Husayn, Mubarak, Salih on Arab Council

JN1702092289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) -Presidents Saddam Husayn, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have affirmed that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] is not a closed ring but a general framework for better cooperation. They affirmed that it is not a substitute but a support for the Arab League.

Answering questions posed by a number of journalists, the three leaders added that establishment of the ACC is an advanced step in joint Arab action and a gain added to the Arab nation's gain of establishing the Palestinian state.

The leaders said that the ACC establishment is not to terrorize anyone, but it is an Arab grouping to serve the interests of the Arab nation. They said no one should fear this grouping because it constitutes a relationship of amity and an open brotherhood for those wishing to join.

Following is the text of the press meeting:

Question: Today, following this major historic event, the signing of the agreement, and the popular conference in which you announced the new cooperation agreement, what can Your Excellency add to these events?

President Saddam Husayn: What I will say is not an addition, but an assertion of reality. The Arabs, especially those sufficiently aware and mature, are very close to their principles. This is because the principles of the Arabs are part of their lives and their future aspirations. What happened in practice is a process of interaction among the four brothers and their aides. This interaction was historically and practically preceded by popular interaction among the four countries. This resulted in mutual trust among the four leaders and four regimes. They know that when they take a step like the one agreed upon, they will be responding to their people and to the requirements of the future in order to secure a better life and better interrelations.

What we did is transform the brotherly atmosphere among the four countries, which has been entrenched by previous brotherly and political relations, into agreements.

Question: What do Presidents Saddam Husayn and Mubarak say to assure some states that may fear such a grouping?

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: In fact, the speeches of my brother President Saddam Husayn and my brother His Majesty King Husayn before the signing of the agreement, in addition to previous statements, indicate that this grouping is not aimed at terrorizing anyone and that it is an Arab grouping serving the interests of the Arab nation. No one should fear this grouping, because it is not at all aimed against anyone. On the contrary, it is a relationship of amity and brotherhood and open to anyone wishing to join. This grouping is like the Gulf and the Arab Maghreb groupings. I do not think anyone should fear this.

President Saddam Husayn: Let us put it this way: Did any of these countries previously have any unconstructive stands in the Arab region? Did any of these countries have an irresponsible stand toward an Arab or non-Arab? Do these countries' slogans or policies arouse suspecion? The present time is the offspring of the past, and the future is the offspring of the present time and its components. If there is nothing negative, the relationship must be constructive in the Arab region. It is natural that this relationship be constructive on the ACC level. And it must be constructive in its view of international politics.

I think these are the genuine characteristics of the ACC.

Question: Your Excellency President Saddam, although the basic objective of the ACC is economic, politics is without doubt linked to economy. The ACC must have a weight in the future regarding supporting peace between Iraq and Iran and concerning the Middle East issue. How does Your Excellency view the next stage in light of this new grouping?

President Saddam Husayn: In the introduction of the ACC agreement which precedes the first article, which announces the formation of this council, there is an existing interrelationship in the concepts that specify the general framework of these countries' vision, or part of it, of the region in general. When these countries meet on bilateral or quadripartite levels to discuss politics, this cannot be dissociated, as we said, from their general policies. Because these countries' policy is constructive, it is natural that this policy will remain constructive when matters are discussed at the quadripartite level.

I do not wish to add to what we stated in writing during the expanded official opening session with respect to the relationship between politics and economy. I and my brothers President Husni Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih before we held our meeting had said more than enough on the general framework of the quadripartite grouping that is now officially known as the ACC. However, I would like to comment on the question that preceded this question. There is talk about apprehensions and dissatisfaction, which in reality do not exist. On the level of the leaders of the four Arab countries that have formed the ACC, no one of us has sensed that any Arab country is dissatisfied with this step. We hope that the grouping of four will become one of 5, and later of 6, and so on until we reach a grouping of 22 Arab countries which will have a mature policy, as is now the case with us. We did not disagree on anything, because not one of us brought with him a document which he wanted to impose on the others.

All that we want is that the four of us act in accordance with the program of the ACC, each within its capabilities and in a manner that will better serve our four countries. Suppose one of the ACC countries improves by 70 percent after it joins the ACC and another country only improves by 30 percent—this does not mean that this grouping is not a great action for the people in the four Arab countries, or for the Arab nation at present and in the future.

Question: What is the secret behind the ACC adopting this appellation in particular? Does it have a special meaning? Why was it not called a federation or bloc? Why was the ACC appellation chosen?

President Saddam Husayn: Had we chosen another name, we would be asked the same question. It is like asking me why I have this name and not another. It was agreed to adopt this appellation.

Question: Mr President, the ACC is an advanced step along the road of the victorious Arab action march. Does Your Excellency believe that more advanced steps will take place in the not-too-distant future?

President Mubarak: God willing, this was the first meeting.

President Saddam Husayn: As you have seen, we have emerged from the meeting and are speaking about steps.

President Husni Mubarak: This step will be followed by continuous meetings on a lesser level to prepare the bylaws, and the next summit meeting, God willing, will be in Cairo immediately after 'Id—that is, in May—to discuss the bylaws, the appointment of a secretary general, and other matters.

President Saddam Husayn: This is a great information event. If you permit, let brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih join us so that you may ask him questions and thus relieve us of some of the pressure you have been putting on us.

Question: President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, what impact will the ACC's establishment have on the course of joint Arab action?

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: The truth is that the establishment of the ACC is an advanced step within the framework of joint Arab action. Since the sixties, our Arab masses have had great aspirations to achieve comprehensive Arab unity. However we were not very fortunate in this respect. Bilateral relations that exist between the countries, common understanding, and similarity in stands on all issues were crowned with the establishment of the ACC, which is an advanced step. This step will be followed by other steps within the framework of this joint Arab action. We are not embarrassed by this step. Some media organs mistakenly interpret it as being something else. As my brother leaders have said, we would like to reaffirm here that the ACC is not an axis or a bloc. However, let those who want to interpret it as such a thing do so. However, we state that it is a step within the framework of joint Arab cooperation, an advanced step of Arab action which will be followed by other steps that will be taken during the forthcoming meetings that will be held either in Cairo, Sanaa, or in Jordan.

Question: Mr President, the Arab nation scored a political victory with the declaration of the Palestinian state and its recognition. The Arab nation also scored a military victory with Iraq's triumph in the battle in defense of the Arab nation on the eastern flank. Mr President, can we also say that the establishment of the ACC is another victory scored by the Arab nation?

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: Yes, the establishment of the ACC is another gain to be added to that of the establishment of the Palestinian state, which has won the support of international public opinion. In this respect, I

would like to say that the international support for the Arab nation's central cause is the result of the revolution of stones in the occupied territories and of the steadfastness of our Palestinian masses there.

Question: Where do the Arab countries that are not members of any of the three groupings stand among these groupings?

President Saddam Husayn: Brother President Husni Mubarak, brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and His Majesty King Husayn have all affirmed that the ACC is not a closed circle. We will not accept that Egypt, Jordan, the YAR, or Iraq will remain confined within this closed circle, no matter how great the ACC's aspirations. Therefore, the ACC is not a closed circle. It is a general guideline for better interaction. We will discuss the wish of any of our Arab brothers who want to join us in light of the desire to abide by the general concepts we have proclaimed. The ACC is not the only framework for interaction among Arabs. The larger framework is the Arab League. If we succeed in making the Arab League hold meetings regularly, and if we succeed through interaction and brotherhood to discard all negative aspects from the relations which exist on a bilateral level and which affect the Arab League, then the Arab League will become more effective and capable of becoming the best and most comprehensive framework through which all the fraternal Arab countries would fulfill their aspirations. Therefore, Arab countries that are not members of the Arab Maghreb Union, the GCC, or the ACC are still Arab League members.

Question: Mr President, does this mean that this grouping will support the Arab League, and not replace it, as some claim?

President Saddam Husayn: It goes without saying that the ACC is not a substitute. Each one of us has a role to play and must exert strenuous efforts to have the Arab League hold regular meetings and assume its responsibilities actively and effectively. Therefore, the ACC is not a substitute for the Arab League. But will it support the Arab League? The answer is yes. The ACC will support the Arab League. If we reviewed the principles and bases of the formation of the Arab League, we would realize that the Arab League was meant to be something more than what it is now. Any other body that will assist it in fulfilling its mission will be supporting it and reaffirming the principles on which it was founded. The Arab League will be encouraged to become more active when it interacts with this supportive body.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: Since one of the journalists has asked the question about where other countries stand from the ACC, the truth is that the proclamation of the ACC bylaws will clarify many things to the Arab countries. Every Arab country has its own economic system, social structure, laws, and constitution. The economic systems of the four countries—Egypt, the YAR, Iraq, and Jordan—are somewhat similar in many respects. This is very important. How can an Arab country with a socialist system which wants to join this grouping tackle this aspect? This would require it to take economic, constitutional, and other measures. We want this Arab country to define clearly its economic system.

President Saddam Husayn: Do you mean a socialist [economic system] with certain formulas?

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: Yes, with certain formulas. Such a situation has its own concepts. We want this aspect to be clear.

President Saddam Husayn: Or is it on the path of capitalist development with certain formulas?

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: Yes.

President Saddam Husayn: If any Arab country holds that its situation conforms with these bases, there will certainly be room, and the brothers are studying this.

Question: It is clear from the main paper that the beginning of the grouping was calm and modest. When do you think work will begin to meet the Arab people's aspirations in the four states?

President Saddam Husayn: Referring to my speech today, you will note that it expresses these concepts, although it was delivered by Saddam Husayn. The speech entails interaction among the concepts that have been discussed since the relationship among all of us was established. We have assessed and shed light on our past experience. We wondered whether it was better to jump to the mountain's peak, for example, before establishing a strong step on the mountain's slope, or whether to begin at the mountain's base, then go to the slope, and then to the peak. Or, using the language of the military, should we establish secure bases and make strong preparations for the advance operation so that when a partial withdrawal takes place on the way to the peak it will be an organized troop withdrawal and not a retreat or defeat?

Therefore, we preferred to take this step and learn about the Arab situation in general and the situation of our four countries. Accordingly, if we find—through deliberations among the four of us—that an additional step, whether partial or total, needs to be added to a more comprehensive or partial field of those discussed, we will certainly discuss this. Hence, it was found that the first step—no matter how small it may be and on condition that it will serve as a strong base on which other steps will be established with the passage of time—will be better than a large step from which we may retreat later or which may be mere ink on paper and will not be implemented.

Question: Your Excellency the President, regarding the clearing of the Arab atmosphere, a member or some members of this union have relations with all Arab states, whereas other members have relations entailing a form of stalemate. Will the parties that are open to the rest of the

Arab states play a role in clearing this atmosphere in order to create a new Arab atmosphere which will open the way for new memberships in the new grouping?

President Saddam Husayn: Since we are now discussing the ACC, let us take for example any leadership in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, or Yemen. If you scrutinize their situation for 4 or 5 years, considering 1989 as the last year, you will find that some people inside these leaderships have moved out of them and others have assumed other jobs or positions. This is because the laws of life necessitate that identity among people cannot be continuously maintained for purposes of development. Hence, differences in viewpoints will emerge here and there. Given this can take place inside one leadership, how can you not imagine that 22 cases, 22 palaces, 22 regimes, and 22 states in the Arab homeland may have differences among them in one way or another, whether such differences are objective or self-induced?

This case will accompany the Arab situation. However, we hope we will place it in a framework suitable for today's age. Thus, when one has differences with another, they should presumably respect each other's opinion and not engage in fighting. There is a difference between having differences, making personal judgments, and giving an analysis different from someone else's analysis showing one's own explanation of phenomena and linking them to one another on the one hand and engaging in fighting and abuse and disturbing political relationships on the other. I am not referring to anyone in the Arab homeland. I only say that when such policies are adopted by Iraq, for example, there seems to be a desire by our brothers in the ACC to tame such an expression concerning differences—or, let us say, to place it within a civilized framework that has something to do with the laws of this age. Thank you.

Shevardnadze Visits Syria, Jordan, Egypt

For further reports on the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, including his talks in Cairo with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 21 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf Urges 'Coexistence' in Tape to Israelis

TA2302093889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 89 p 2

["Taped address" by Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, to the International Committee for Peace in the Middle East symposium in Jerusalem on 22 February]

[Text] (I look forward to a future) in which our meetings will be face-to-face, and we can discuss the future of the lives of our two peoples as well as the future of real peace in direct meetings. Although circumstances have prevented this on this occasion, I hope that in the near future we will address each other neither via the newspapers nor through video but through such personal contacts.

When I say these words, I say them on the basis of a fixed strategy which we now, and after a painful experience, work according to—and so that we may not deceive you. In the past we believed that this land is ours alone, and we did not believe in the idea of co-existence between two states. Although we used to believe in the idea of co-existence as religions, or rather as people belonging to different religions. [sentence as published] This kind of co-existence, that is, the co-existence between Moslems, Christians and Jews, has been practised by our people in this land. However, the idea of co-existence between two states was one that in the past was remote.

Everything that has happened to the Palestinian people and to the Israeli people—the blood which has been spilled, the victims, the maimed—all this has moved us to react naturally to the call of every Palestinian and Israeli child, so that we can take a serious step towards peace. Thus came the resolutions adopted in Algiers. These resolutions were not passed just by a leadership: they proceeded from a legislative council which represents the Palestinian people in its entirety. The council passed these resolutions after an arduous process of dialogue and discussion, and everybody was convinced that there is no path but the path of peace.

Some people asked us whether the Israeli leadership would respond to our call for peace and to our resolutions. We replied that this is not what is most important. What is important is that our Palestinian people and the Israeli people feel that the Palestinian leadership has responded to the most widely-supported call by our people for peace. What is important is that this call touch the heart and mind of every Israeli, whether child, woman or man, because it is inevitable that peace will prevail, and that the two state solution will be achieved.

So why the agony and the procrastination? The disagreement really is over the price. Are we prepared to pay the price of proceeding with courage and strength, inspired by the agony and suffering of our people? Or, would we rather drag our feet until there are more killed, more children who are subjected to terror, and until there are more disfigured and crippled victims, in this useless war?

It is on this basis that I address you, and say to you that the Algiers resolutions, and 'Arafat's statements at the press conference in Geneva, reflect the heart-felt convictions of every Palestinian. But we would remind you that just as you have some extremists, we also have many such people. However, the test of courage is when such extremism is countered head on, rather than surrendered to.

Does any Israeli really believe in his heart that it is possible to destroy five million Palestinians? We have asked a similar question of ourselves and have concluded that we cannot destroy the Israeli people. The realistic solution, therefore, is that we live side by side, and that we walk the path of peace.

Some people wonder whether this co-existence is only a first stage. We answer, no. We want a definitive settlement. But a definitive settlement will only come if its peace is just. Peace is not a piece of paper. All questions connected with peace and security have to be discussed in negotiations. The important thing is that the two peoples, the Palestinian and the Israeli, come to believe in the necessity of co-existence between two states. We are ready to reach any security arrangements through meetings: but believe me that real security lies only in the real belief in peace.

The real issue is not negotiations in which Israel seeks this piece of land or in which we seek that piece of land. This is a small geographic area, without much elbow-room. We do not seek to have a Berlin Wall or any other wall separating us; we want there to be openness. The only thing we seek is that there be real—as opposed to verbal—normalization. I am confident that peace has now come to settle in the heart and conscience of every Palestinian. I am confident that if we search deeply in the hearts and minds of Israelis, we shall find peace there, too.

However it is important to take stock at some point and to admit that the ill-feelings that have accumulated in the past cannot be destroyed overnight. We must live with the idea of peace ourselves first if we are to transmit it to others. Without accepting it oneself, and living with it, we cannot transmit these ideas and beliefs to others.

I say truly that the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people want peace. The steps taken in Algiers and in Geneva reflect this conviction of the need for peace. But so that peace may be achieved, it is necessary that the Israeli leadership change its mentality of rejectionism, obduracy, the constant addition of further conditions and seeking to win time.

I do not know why time should be won. Is it so that yet more conditions may be imposed on the Palestinians? This is absurd and will lead to nothing.

It is important that we capitalize on this historic opportunity. Each time our people hear of martyrs and of more wounded, the chances for peace will inevitably be pushed further away. This now is the opportunity that we must take. Let us be courageous and grasp it firmly. Let us put all the issues on the table. We believe in direct meetings; we are ready for such meetings, and we say it publicly, on any level. Let the Israelis come and meet us secretly, openly, or in any other way. We are anxious for such meetings, not because we are in despair. Quite the contrary, it is because we are strong, because we have confidence in ourselves and in the need for peace, because we seek this peace with every faith in it, that we have arrived at a truth that we hope the Israeli leaders will also arrive at before it is too late. This is the truth which says that two peoples and two states must co-exist on this land.

All other matters are open to discussion. Our Covenant and yours can be discussed. All security arrangements and guarantees can be discussed in direct meetings. Then, if we reach an agreement, as I am sure we shall, we can take this agreement to an international conference where the entire world can be a witness to these security arrangements, and so that not a single loophole will be left to spoil it.

Thus we do not see the international conference as an end in itself, but as a means to guarantee the safety of the two states in the context of an international agreement. And what is important for us is that these meetings and contacts and dialogues take place in advance of the conference, so that the conference itself becomes the forum in which to bring our agreement to fruition.

Those who stand in the way of peace want the river of blood to continue to flow. Instead of seeking to achieve peace in order to avoid more victims, they seek more victims in order to achieve peace. I don't know what kind of peace it would be which is built on the mountain of corpses and skulls, and crippled, wounded and killed. It would be a peace that is useless.

There are many peace movements, small and large, in Israel. To those I say, in the name of the Palestinian people, the PLO and the Palestinian leadership: to every child in Israel, to every woman and every man, through you, that we are genuine in our desire for a strategic peace. A peace through which we shall bring security and stability to this region. A peace in which people can begin to devote their time and energy to making their lives prosperous and genuinely peaceful.

Why do the Palestinians and Israelis have to live in fear? How can we put an end to this fear, this state of mutual terror in which both Israelis and Palestinians live? There is no way out except through peace with the Palestinian people, whose suffering is the root of the problem.

Perhaps I need not mention the peace agreement with Egypt or any other attempts at agreements with others. Perhaps all these agreements were good from the Israeli leadership point of view. But you should ask yourselves, Why do these agreements not produce real peace? The answer is that the basic element required for such a peace was missing, namely, the Palestinian people.

As I said earlier, everything can be discussed with complete reassurance. We say this because, as I also said earlier, we are confident that our call for peace is a strategic call, and not just a call for useless talks. But we

must note that real peace is just peace. When peace is just, it can be lasting. And just peace, now that we live in an age of rockets and long-distance artillery, cannot be linked with matters of technicalities and armaments. Rather, the condition for real peace is that there be a genuine desire to co-exist. We must work on our people to develop this desire, and you must equally work on yours. This is the road to real security and real peace.

The final question I wish to raise at this symposium in this context is, if this historic opportunity following the Algiers resolutions is missed, then what will the alternative be? Israel may be able to survive this situation for one more year, or two or even 10. But believe me, after these 10 years, and after hundreds and maybe thousands more victims, we shall find ourselves back at this point: there can be no peace without the Palestinians. There can be no peace without co-existence with the Palestinians. There can be no peace without two states which will co-exist side by side, and which will be able to say to the entire world: the war in the Middle East has ended, and the tragedy is over. Thank you.

Radio Free Lebanon on Tape

NC2202171889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, who is one of the leaders of the Palestinian Movement Fatah, has suggested that the PLO delete the clause about the destruction of Israel from the PLO Charter, saying this could pave the way for a final resolution of the Palestinian problem. Khalaf denounced terrorism, saying the land of Palestine could be shared by two peoples, the Palestinian and the Israeli. This came in a videotape distributed clandestinely in the West Bank and Gaza.

Islamic Jihad To 'Take Revenge' on Rushdie

JN2302092289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine organization has announced it will take revenge on Salman Rushdie, the British writer of "The Satanic Verses." In a handwritten statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut, the organization said it will take revenge on all the institutions and organizations that insulted Islam and the great prophet, as the statement put it.

Al-Husayni Discusses Elections, 'Uprising'

JN2002171689 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 18 Feb 89 p 19

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, a leading Palestinian figure in the occupied Arab territories, by an unidentified correspondent in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] [Question] What about the media clamor that followed your statements on elections in the West Bank and Gaza?

[Al-Husayni] This clamor, in which my name was mentioned, came as a result of a question posed to me by the MAPAM member Ya'ir Tzaban when he visited me in jail. He asked me: If Israel agrees to free elections, will the Palestinians agree? I said: I do not object to the principle of elections, but there are conditions: First, the elections should be held under international supervision; second, they should not be linked to any other Israeli plans, such as the autonomy plan; third, the PLO must agree to these elections. I told him that our political demand is not elections, but an end to the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and the territories occupied in 1967.

After this interview, Rabin put forward his plan. This plan fully contradicts my three conditions. However, it appeared as though there was something in common between my stand and the Israeli plan. Israeli news media, especially the television, played an important role in misquoting me. They did not report all the conditions as I stated them, but reported only one of these conditions. It therefore appeared as if there was a contradiction between my statements and those of the PLO outside the occupied territories. In addition to this, I believe that this media clamor has three reasons:

1. It is part of the continuous attempts by the Israeli authorities to confuse the Palestinian situation and undermine the intifadah [uprising], with the hope of creating an alternative leadership.

2. It aimed at raising the morale of the soldiers. The Israeli authorities wanted to tell them: We are not indifferent; we are trying to give political solutions and, therefore, you have to stand firm in the field.

3. It is propaganda, especially to suggest to the United States that there is a leadership alternative to the PLO. They are trying to say to the United States: Why should you be in a hurry to negotiate with the PLO and meet with PLO members since there is an alternative leadership?

[Question] Do you think that your statements on elections raised questions in Tunis—I mean within the PLO leadership?

[Al-Husayni] Some members of the Palestinian leadership have known me since 1948, 1956, and 1967. As for the period that followed, I think they hear about my activities and the number and duration of my repeated apprehensions. The situation, therefore, is clear to them, and there is no confusion. However, I do not rule out the possibility that intensive media pressure raised some questions. But all this can be clarified in the coming days.

[Question] What is your position on the formation of the provisional government outside the occupied territories?

[Al-Husayni] Such a step is usually taken in the last 5 minutes. The only party that can set up this government is the Palestinian leadership outside the occupied territories. As for us in the West Bank and Gaza, we cannot,

from our position, fix a date for the proclamation of the provisional govetnent. We see trees in the jungle, but not the whole jungle. I am not fully informed about facts on the international scene, but I see that the PLO scored an important political victory by declaring the state. Any new step should be matched by another political victory. Meanwhile, we in the occupied territories can translate these resolutions at any time that the PLO leadership finds appropriate.

[Question] You recently told THE JERUSALEM POST that you believe Rabin has begun to realize that military solutions are now unsuccessful. Do you think that the Israeli mentality has changed or developed?

[Al-Husayni] I think that there is a beginning of change. In the past, the Israeli leadership comprised groups with different views, but all were in agreement not to talk to the PLO. The current situation is somewhat different. As a result of the intifadah and the political victories by the PLO, Israeli leaders and figures believing in the need to open dialogue with the PLO have appeared. For example, a number of meetings between Israeli Knesset members and PLO members outside the occupied territories took place. Also, some ministers who supported Rabin's plan, such as Yitzhaq Navon and prominent Labor members, said that ultimately Israel should talk with the PLO.

There is change in the Israeli policy. The limits of this change, however, are still unacceptable to the Palestinian people. Rabin, for instance, knows that his plan is unacceptable, but he is trying to implement it through escalating military oppression, which he considers the main method for making his plan successful. He is trying to end the intifadah, but his policy failed. Although we reject Rabin's plan, this plan in itself constitutes a political development. We do not forget that Golda Ma'ir said some years ago that there is no Palestinian people. Now Rabin says: "There is a Palestinian people, but they are demanding too much." We must examine the proposed solutions to know what satisfies us and what does not.

[Question] Do you believe that this Israeli policy toward the Palestine question will be more flexible?

[Al-Husayni] Israel now has two choices: The existing government is replaced within 1 or 2 years by another that negotiates with the PLO, or the current government holds the negotiations. The Israelis should now come up with something new. Their initiative so far has not met the minimum requirements.

[Question] Since you are optimistic about the current change, why do you think the Likud party won the latest Knesset elections despite the escalation of the intifadah?

[Al-Husayni] I think that the Israeli voter somehow believed in the viewpoint that the party that can impose political solutions is only the Likud, not the Alignment. The Likud, therefore, won the confidence of this voter.

[Question] What do you expect to happen to the intifadah in the future?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza are facing great challenges. Our people, however, enjoy a high degree of response to these challenges. They tried to undermine the merchants' strike, they tried to stop strikes, and they are now trying to exhaust us economically. I think the coming stage will be devoted to fighting the economic pressure. We must now reinforce the infrastructure of the Palestinian state. There is now a collective Palestinian mentality to face crises. We find solutions to any crisis that emerges, and we build the structure of the Palestinian state, including its economy and new traditions and habits.

PNC Speaker on Ties with Syria, U.S. Stand

JN1902110689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Feb 89 p 17

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpts] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih declared that an international Arab parliamentary conference will be held in the Greek capital, Athens, sometime between 31 March and 2 April.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, Al-Sa'ih said that the title of the conference will be the Palestine Question and Peace in the Middle East. This conference will be attended by numerous international parliamentary bodies, one of which is the Greek parliamentarians—the side that asked for its convening for the sake of peace in the Middle East.

Parliamentarians from all the independent Greek parties participate in this body.

Parliamentarians from all countries around the Mediterranean basin have been invited to attend. [passage omitted]

On the U.S. veto in the UN Security Council against the resolution condemning Israeli acts of oppression inside the occupied territories and the PLO stand on that, Shaykh al-Sa'ih expressed his deep regret over this veto. He affirmed that it is not encouraging behavior and does not indicate any improvement in U.S. policy. It is unsatisfactory and disappointed all hopes built on the new U.S. President. We were hoping that President Bush would weigh his responsibilities at this stage of the Palestine cause where the Palestinian Arab people are being subjected to the most severe types of torture and suffering by the Israeli occupation authorities. I do not believe it is an honor for the United States to use the veto on such a stand, and this will not be a method to improve relations between it and the Arab countries, especially those countries that were pinning their hopes on the United States to take the stand dictated by its being a superpower and assuming its responsibilities so that peace and security would prevail in the region.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added that using the veto will be an element supportive of Israel and Israeli oppression and violence. In addition, terrorism will increase against citizens in the occupied territories. Therefore, the region will move away from achieving the aspired peace.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih continued that the United States must review its stand and achieve what the Arabs hope for from its new presidency. It would then move in accordance with what is dictated by its responsibilities and position.

On Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's tour of the region and the importance of this visit to Jordan and the region, the PNC speaker said: This visit is very important, and our hopes in it are great. We are pinning hopes on this visit to support the Arab right because it is only just. His tour, which he started in Damascus, then Jordan, Egypt, and Kuwait, indicates the Soviet Union's concern for the Palestine question and peace in the world. We hope the United States will realize that the stand of the Soviet Union is a positive stand that we and all the Arabs appreciate. This stand could also strengthen Arab-Soviet relations and give a greater push to the relations of brotherhood and friendship that bind the Soviet Union and the Arabs.

On relations with Syria, Shaykh al-Sa'ih affirmed that there is an improvement in relations with Damascus and that this good atmosphere between Syria and the PLO affirms that meetings will be held soon between ranking PLO and Syrian officials. He continued: Israel's stand and U.S. support for it dictates that we should ignore any secondary disputes, extend our hands to each other, and take the stand of brothers who are united to support the Palestine question. Proceeding from this concept, relations between Syria and the PLO improved. In addition, the present circumstances helped in bringing personal contacts with Syria closer to agree on a unified stand supporting the cause, because the challenges necessitate that we unite and stand in one line to support the cause and confront the Israeli challenges until we attain our legitimate right, which cannot be forfeited—not by Syria, nor the PLO, nor any other Arab country. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Tour, U.S. 'Stalling' Examined

JN2302103689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1952 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Station commentary: "A Strong Soviet Pull Toward Peace in the Region"]

[Text] Brothers: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is continuing his Middle East tour, which includes Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and the PLO, in addition to a meeting with Moshe Arens, the foreign minister in the new government coalition of the Zionist entity. There have been positive impressions in the West about the Soviet foreign minister's tour [words indistinct] of the PLO, and that it attaches great hopes to this new Soviet effort toward peace in the Middle East. [words indistinct] for brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] with Shevardnadze, who called for holding a meeting of the foreign ministers of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council to discuss means of speeding up the convocation of the international peace conference. The Soviet minister sounded optimistic that the international peace conference will not be far off.

It is noteworthy that the U.S. reactions to Shevardnadze's tour were not positive. In a news conference he held at the White House yesterday, the new U.S. President George Bush said that the Soviet role in the Middle East should be limited because the states in the region—meaning Israel—want this. Moreover, James Baker, the U.S. Secretary of State reacted to the Soviet minister's call for convening a meeting of the Security Council's foreign ministers by saying that such a meeting will not be the best means of solving the problem. Baker said that the situation is not bad enough to warrant such a (?thing).

It is well known that the United States is trying to place obstacles in the path of any efforts to hold an international conference. This stand was one of the salient features of Baker's tour of the U.S. European allies—a tour which followed the visit to the region by a tripartite European delegation comprising the Greek, French, and Spanish foreign ministers, and their subsequent announcement that there are increasing opportunities for progress toward peace in the Middle East, toward holding an international conference, and toward speeding up efforts to form a preparatory committee for this conference. By its intentional slow movement, the U.S. side wants to give the Zionist entity further opportunity to crystallize the so-called new Israeli proposals on the issue.

Political observers are of the opinion that time is running out, but these alleged Zionist proposals do not seem forthcoming. On the contrary, the latest statements by the leaders of the Zionist entity show that they have no new ideas. Therefore, the intentional U.S. stalling is meant to give further time to Israeli practice of terror and violence against our heroic Palestinian people in a desperate attempt to stop the blessed heroic intifadah [uprising]. This stalling is also manifested by the failure to resume the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and the Bush administration's persevering search for weak pretexts and justifications not to resume this dialogue. However, the results in terms of the U.S.-Israeli [word indistinct] to stop the uprising is disappointing to the U.S.-Israeli alliance.

And while we greatly value the friendly Soviet Union's efforts to promote the peace march in the region—a peace within whose framework comes the Shevardnadze visit—we say that the Zionists' play for time, supported by the United States, will not change the promotion of Palestinian realities. The intifadah [uprising] will continue and there is only one door from which to enter into real peace; namely, the door of Palestinian rights, including the right of self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Egypt

Cabinet on ACC Accord, Tabah 15 Mar Withdrawal

NC2202152089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—The cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi today, has approved the agreement pertaining to the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] between Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the YAR which was signed in Baghdad last Thursday.

This was announced by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif who added that the draft presidential decree on this agreement will be submitted to the People's Assembly for ratification.

He noted that the cabinet emphasized during its discussions today that the establishment of the ACC is regarded as a serious step along the path of unified Arab action and that the ACC linking these four Arab states makes possible the highest degree of coordination, integration, and cooperation among them in a manner that serves the good of their people and the causes of development, stability, peace, progress and the attainment of a higher standard of living for their citizens.

Al-Sharif added that the cabinet had stressed the need for serious action to attain economic integration through the coordination of policies on the level of the production sectors. He said that the cabinet also emphasized the provision included in the agreement that the ACC is one of the Arab nation's organizations. The cabinet also declared the agreement's adherence to the Arab League Charter, the joint Arab defense pact, Arab economic cooperation, and the Arab League's institutions and auxiliary organizations. The ACC agreement also adheres to the principle of cooperation with the GCC and other Arab and regional groupings.

The Egyptian information minister said that the cabinet has decided to form an advisory working group that will include a number of high-level experts in the spheres of production, finance, and business in order to prepare studies that would serve and achieve the ACC's goals. The information minister said that this group will also include the ministries which are concerned with forming working groups whose task will be to formulate a strategy of action and joint policies on actions covered by the agreement and to organize the stages of implemention of goals.

The information minister added that the prime minister has pointed out that the higher joint committees among the four countries are stil standing and will continue to function until their functions and tasks are transferred to the ACC.

The information minister noted that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has referred to the total Arab support for and the international welcome of the ACC's establishment.

Safwat al-Sharif said that the cabinet also discussed the situation with regard to the Tabah discussions in light of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's report on the developments of negotiations between the Egyptian and Israeli delegations and the discussions that were held during the Israeli foreign minister's visit to Cairo. The Foreign Ministry's report notes that an agreement has been reached to carry out the withdrawal from Tabah on 15 March and to end the dispute between the two countries on the issues connected with the Tabah question. The report further points out that outstanding issues on this matter will be resolved before 26 February, a date on which agreement has already been reached between the two countries.

The information minister reported that Dr Sidqi has announced that the state organs will exercise their natural and sovereign powers over Tabah as soon as full withdrawal is completed.

The information minister also reported that the tourism minister briefed the cabinet on the results of the negotiations pertaining to the payment of compensation for the tourist facilities in Tabah. The information minister said that the cabinet authorized the tourism minister to sign the final agreement pertaining to the compensation to be paid.

Shevardnadze, Israel's Arens Meet in Cairo

Comment on Talks

NC2202122789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens held a 3-hour meeting in Cairo this morning. After the meeting Shevardnadze stated that the talks were characterized by "an atmosphere of earnestness." He expressed his complete satisfaction with the talks, noting that his meeting with Arens today is considered to be another stage of the dialogue between the Soviet Union and Israel and his intensive talks with Arens earlier in Paris.

Shevardnadze pointed out that during their meeting at the Soviet Embassy in Cairo today, they discussed all aspects of the Middle East issue. He said that this does not mean they have reached a solution, noting that he had not expected this. He said: "However, we noted that several developments and changes have occurred in the world and in the Middle East which require intensive collective efforts to achieve peace."

Shevardnadze said: Basically, I agree with the Israeli foreign minister on the need to continue the dialogue and contacts between the two sides on ministerial or other levels. He noted in this respect that a Soviet-Israeli

meeting at the level of experts will be held in the next few days. He pointed out that the goal following his meeting with Arens today is to discuss all aspects of the Middle East problem in depth. He said: We will afterward define the necessary means and possibilities for moving along.

Shevardnadze described his meeting with Arens today as "useful and constructive" and stressed that "the good working atmosphere" that prevailed in the meeting was in itself "a step forward." He went on to say that this will certainly allow for what he described as "honest dialogue" between the Soviet and Israeli parties. He stressed that the worst thing is the absence of dialogue.

Israeli Foreign Minister Arens made a similar statement following his meeting with Shevardnadze at the Soviet Embassy in Cairo. He expressed his thanks to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government for making this meeting possible. Arens said that "there has been an unfriendly atmosphere between the Soviet Union and Israel for 20 years, and there has been no dialogue between them. When we met, we found that there was so much we needed to talk about, but we have not had enough time to discuss everything we wanted to." He noted in this regard that he will meet again with Shevardnadze and that the Soviet-Israeli contacts will continue.

Commenting on this statement, Shevardnadze said that Israel is considered a very important party in the Middle East peace process, stressing that unless Israel exhibits "good intentions" within this framework, there will be no solution to this problem. He also stressed that without the Soviet Union, there will be no peace process in the Middle East. He said: "We have accepted this. The dialogue must continue, and we have indeed begun this dialogue."

Replying to a question on whether there is a rapprochement between the Soviet Union and Israel on the peace process in the Middle East, Moshe Arens said: I believe that we have in fact started to lay down the basis for the process of understanding our countries' views even though our stands are not identical.

Asked if his talks with Arens were frank, Shevardnadze replied: Our talks were very frank. The Soviet foreign minister referred to the issue of holding the international Middle East peace conference. He said that he agrees with the Israeli foreign minister that the question is not an easy one. He went on to say: Even if we were to agree today with the Israeli foreign minister, this would not mean the international conference would convene because we must take into account all the Arab stances in addition to those of the Security Council's permanent members and the European group. Shevardnadze added that the issue of the international conference should be tackled "with all due concern."

Replying to a question on coordination between the Soviet Union and the United States on holding the international Middle East peace conference, Shevardnadze said: We have discussed this, and there will be more coordination with other countries. He said that his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on 6 March in Vienna will give them an opportunity to discuss many aspects of the Middle East peace process. He added: We have begun active and creative work.

Regarding the future of the peace process and convening the international conference, Shevardnadze said that he will deliver a general statement tomorrow, Thursday, on his talks in Cairo in which he will deal with the Middle East issue. He went on to say: "I am optimistic by nature. The problem must be solved, and there is no other way to do it."

Asked if he sensed flexibility in his talks with the Israeli foreign minister, Shevardnadze said: "I do not want to reply to this. There are difficulties and differences of views. Hence, we have decided to continue the dialogue, and this dialogue will be held at the expert level. Other meetings at the ministerial level will also be held."

Arens Departs Cairo 22 Feb

NC2202133989 Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 22 (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens left here this afternoon for home after a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Arens held talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on the latest Middle East developments.

Arens also met with his visiting Soviet opposite number Eduard Shevardnadze.

Further on Shevardnadze Meetings With Officials

Envoy on Visit

NC2202164989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb, (MENA)—Ahmad Mahir, Egypt's ambassador to the Soviet Union, has stressed that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt and his various meetings in Cairo underline the Soviet Union's view of Egypt's role as a pivotal one in the region.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the Egyptian ambassador said today that Shevardnadze's visit to Cairo has two dimensions, one international and the other bilateral.

Regarding the first dimension, the ambassador said that Shevardnadze's visit and the important talks he held with President Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his meeting scheduled today with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat confirm

the Soviet Union's view of this role. He added that Shevardnadze has chosen Cairo for holding these meetings and that he will deliver a political statement tomorrow, Thursday, summing up the results of his visit and meetings. This shows that Egypt's role is fundamental and pivotal in the Soviet Union's view. He added that the Soviet and Egyptian stands on the movement toward a peaceful settlement in the Middle East are identical. He stressed that the circumstances are favorable for a positive action to find a comprehensive settlement through the convocation of the international conference in which all parties will participate.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir then referred to the second dimension, that is the bilateral dimension that concerns Egyptian-Soviet relations. He said that this was manifested in the meeting that Shevardnadze had yesterday with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the ministers of foreign affairs, industry, economy, and international cooperation. The ambassador added that various aspects of existing and future cooperation in the various fields were reviewed at this meeting. The two sides, he said, expressed their satisfaction with the conclusion of the trade protocol and its implementation, and discussed the modernization and expansion of production of a number of Egyptian factories and the expansion of another number of factories. The two sides also discussed cooperation in scientific and educational fields.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir described this important meeting as preparation for the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee in Cairo next March. The Egyptian delegation to that meeting will be led by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Soviet delegation will be led by the deputy prime minister for economic affairs. He said: The possibility of extending cooperation to other sectors was also discussed. There are projects under study now and others that will be implemented. He noted that the two countries will sign some contracts in the next stage after completing studies on some other projects, most important of which is the electricity plant in 'Uyun Musa in Sinai.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir stressed that the atmosphere that prevailed during this visit is one of mutual cordiality and the common desire to bolster cooperation and to open new scopes and spheres in all fields. He said that the two countries have a firm desire to increase cooperation since the basis of their relations is clear. These relations are characterized by mutual respect, equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and the balance of interests, and mutual interests. He noted here that new scopes of cooperation can be envisaged within this framework, particularly as the two countries are working for the sake of development, economic reform, and peace, and hence the two countries' aims are identical.

Replying to a question on whether the Soviet Union has limited its peace plan to the mechanism of peace and that it has not submitted definite proposals, the ambassador said: It is difficult to differentiate between the form and the content because the aims are known, namely the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. What is important now is to find the means of activating the mechanism for reaching these objectives. He added that the position of Egypt and the Soviet Union is that the only suitable mechanism is the holding of the international peace conference with the participation of all the concerned parties on equal footing.

Regarding the situation in the occupied Arab territories during the period set by the Soviet plan for holding the international peace conference, ambassador Ahmad Mahir said that the details will be discussed during the preparations for the international conference. As to the 9-month period set by the Soviet Union, there will be consultations on this to reach an answer to all questions posed about the topic.

The ambassador added: The important thing is that we are now at the threshold of the international conference. All the conditions for holding this conference are favorable because of the change in world, U.S., and Soviet public opinion and the development in the Palestinian stand as well as the Arab rapprochement.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir stressed that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] is at the forefront of these changes in the Palestinian issue in addition to the political efforts made by some countries, led by Egypt, to give an impetus to the peace efforts in the region.

He said that the second point in these changes is that the Israeli leadership now realizes the need for change and the impossibility of adhering to present policies. The various peace plans being proposed by Israeli leaders from time to time are proof of this. He added that, regardless of the substance of all these plans and without commenting on this substance, they all confirm that the Israelis now feel that the situation cannot continue as it is now and must be changed. The entire world, the United States, and the Soviet Union are convinced of this.

Concluding his statement, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir said: This is the logical conclusion of the entire situation. This prompts us to say that the conditions are very favorable. The Soviet move comes at the appropriate time, and Egypt welcomes this move.

Confers With Al-Mahjub

NC2302094189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze held a closed meeting today with Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, People's Assembly speaker; Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Consultative Council speaker; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation. During the meeting, which

was held at the NDP General Secretariat Headqaurters, the discussions dealt with the developments in the Middle East issue and the relations between the two countries.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Continues Visit to Cairo

Comments on Elections Issue

NC2202141089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he will hold a number of meetings with various friendly parties during the tour of Arab countries he began in Cairo today. He also referred to his recent tour of Europe and said that he will next go on an African tour during which he will visit Senegal, Ghana, and Gambia within the context of continuing contacts and consultations with all parties and friends.

Replying to a question following his arrival in Cairo today on whether his scheduled meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will be successful, 'Arafat said: "I believe so."

Replying to a question on the elections held in the West Bank [in 1976], 'Arafat said some of those who were elected were arrested, others were deported from Israel, and others were dismissed from their posts.

The Palestinian leader stressed that the PLO is not against the elections but these should be held after the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Asked if 1989 will be the year of the international peace conference, the Palestinian leaders said that there is no U.S. objection to holding this conference, but there is now a U.S. study to discuss the best way to hold it.

Replying to a question about the Israeli foreign minister's objection to holding an international peace conference, 'Arafat said that they are reiterating and repeating the same slogans they made in the past during the withdrawal process from Sinai, yet the withdrawal was implemented.

Meets With Shevardnadze

NC2202201489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo today. They exchanged views and affirmed that the only way to establish a lasting and just peace in the Middle East is to balance the interests of all the parties to the conflict.

They also discussed arrangements pertaining to preparations for convening an international peace conference to resolve the Middle East issue.

In addition, they emphasized the need to stimulate the UN Security Council's efforts so that the council's permanent member states may assume the task of preparing for this conference.

Shevardnadze and 'Arafat expressed the hope that there will be a development in Israel's position in relation to an international conference.

Comments on Meeting

NC2202212189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that there is agreement between Soviet and Palestinian views on the need to hold an international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East.

In a statement he made after a 3-hour meeting he held this evening with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, 'Arafat said that he hopes to conduct negotiations with Israel under UN auspices with the participation of all other concerned parties and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

'Arafat expressed gratitude to the Soviet foreign minister for his country's constant position on the issue of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East for the good of all the peoples of the region, including the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Yasir 'Arafat added that the fact that the meeting between him and Shevardnadze today was held in Cairo emphasizes the love we feel for Egypt and reflects its Arab and international standing.

'Arafat recalled that he had previously met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Shevardnadze in Moscow last year and noted that during that meeting the objectives of peace were determined. He said that after that meeting the PNC session was held in Algiers and issued its well-known resolutions. 'Arafat also referred to the speech he addressed to the UN General Assembly session in Geneva.

Answering a question on the terrorism that is being carried out in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, 'Arafat asked: Do you believe that resistance to the occupation is terrorism? He wondered what possible description can be used for Israel's acts of repression and its killing of women and children in the occupied territories.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC2202211089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a lengthy meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening. 'Arafat had earlier met with Soviet

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The discussions between Dr 'Abd al-Majid and 'Arafat centered on the latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas and the efforts being exerted to give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East, as well as on preparations for an international peace conference.

The two men also reviewed the results of the discussions with Shevardnadze that took place in Cairo, as well as Dr 'Abd al-Majid's talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

It is known that Shevardnadze will deliver a comprehensive political statement at the NDP Political Club tomorrow. He is expected to deal with the results of his talks in Cairo and the details of the Soviet plan to give momentum to the peace process in the region.

The Egyptians and Palestinians emphasized that their views during the talks were identical on the need to expedite the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO and the UN Security Council permanent members states.

'Abd al-Majid and 'Arafat agreed on the need to continue Egyptian-Palestinian consultations during the coming phase, in light of the international consultations that President Husni Mubarak will hold during his visit to Tokyo and also during his tour of several European countries next month.

Comments on Talks

NC2202221889 Cairo MENA in arabic 2137 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—After his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that the current phase through which the Palestinian issue is passing is very important and delicate. He noted that extensive contacts had been held at the highest level during the past few days.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Palestinians and Egyptians are resolutely continuing their efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and that the matter needs time. He emphasized that the Palestinian cause had achieved splendid success during the past few months, thanks to 'Arafat's wise leadership and to the extensive efforts which President Husni Mubarak is making to give an impetus to the peace efforts. He expressed his hope that this success will continue and that the Palestinian cause will attain its objective, which is that the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate rights.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat expressed his gratitude for the enormous efforts Egypt and President Husni Mubarak are making to resolve the Palestinian issue and to give momentum to the peace efforts in the region. He noted that before leaving for abroad President Mubarak had asked Dr 'Abd al-Majid to follow up the talks between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Cairo, as well as the Palestinian-Shevardnadze talks. 'Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that the recent meetings in Cairo confirm Egypt's standing in the Arab, Palestinian, and international spheres.

He noted that he had held two meetings with Dr 'Abd al-Majid today. The first took place immediately after his arrival in Cairo this afternoon, and lasted 2 and ½ hours; the second meeting was held after his talks with Shevardnadze.

Referring to his meeting with Shevardnadze, 'Arafat said that he and the Soviet official discussed a number of issues of mutual interest, including the consultations Shevardnadze is holding to give an impetus to the peace process and to bring about the convening of an international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Al-Azhar Imam Asks Rebuttal to Rushdie in Book

NC2202174589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Al-Azhar Grand Imam Jad al-Haq has called for publishing a book refuting the ideas insulting to Islam as contained in Salman Rushdie's book ["The Satanic Verses"]. In an interview with the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM, Jad al-Haq said that widespread condemnation of the book has benefited Salman Rushdie by making sales of his book soar spectacularly.

Libya

Memorandum on 'Satanic Verses' Sent to ICO

LD2202123889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1155 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Feb (JANA)—A source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has pointed out that the People's Committee of that bureau had sent a memorandum to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general informing him of the measures adopted by the Great Jamahiriyah to face up to the publication and distribution of the novel "Satanic Verses" written by the person called Salman Rushdie.

The memorandum also includes some proposals by the Great Jamahiriyah for possible adoption by the Islamic world within the framework of the ICO to confront the publication of this novel which harms Islam and hurts the feelings of Muslims everywhere on earth, especially as during the past few days it has taken on a form which goes beyond the limits of freedom of publication and writing, which we respect and hold sacred, a form which is used by those who hate Islam and are its enemies in order to harm Islam.

Sudan

Army Gives Government 1-Week Ultimatum

EA2202172289 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The Armed Forces have submitted a strongly worded memorandum to the head of state and the government. It comprises 21 clauses and gives the government a time limit of 1 week to resolve the security, military, and economic deterioration and the isolation in foreign relations. The memorandum was signed by a number of commanders of internal and external Army units. [as heard].

The memorandum included the following points: the necessity of following a national course in government; the preservation of the national nature of the Armed Forces; the dissolution of the party militias; support for the Armed Forces, giving them priority in government policies; and overcoming the situation of deterioration and economic recession.

The memorandum called on Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister, to form a national government that will have clear and decisive policies on the crucial issues facing the country.

At the same time, officials in the Armed Forces confirmed that the memorandum was prepared within the framework of consititutional legitimacy and is an attempt to reform internal conditions and deal with the threats to national security, on the basis of their constitutional responsibility under Article 15 of the Provisional Constitution, which reads: The People's Armed Forces are an inseparable part of the people and their task is to defend the country's security and its territorial integrity and security [as heard] and to protect the aims and gains of the [name indistinct] [April 1986] Revolution.

The memorandum specified the threats to Sudan's national security in the points mentioned at the beginning of this report.

Al-Mahdi Meets With Generals

EA2202195889 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Madhi met this morning with the General Command of the People's Armed Forces. The meeting continued until this afternoon. He discussed with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of general staff and the three deputy chiefs of staff the memorandum submitted by the General Command. The meeting also dealt with the security, political and military situation in the country. The prime minister promised to publish the memorandum in the mass media and to reply to it through the same channels.

After the meeting General Fathi Almad Ali, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, met the commanders of the services, units, and branches and senior officers of the forces. He gave a full report on Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's lengthy and detailed meeting with the General Command, which lasted until 1800 this evening.

Government Confirms SPLA Attack on Juba

EA2202172689 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Reports from the Juba Command have confirmed that the outlaws yesterday shelled the town, which resulted in the deaths of 11 civilians and the destruction of 46 huts. The attack also caused alarm among unarmed innocent citizens. The outlaws' radio alleged that they shelled military targets.

Libyan Armed Forces Commander Arrives 18 Feb

EA1902171089 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunus Jabir, member of the historic leadership of the 1st September Revolution and the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has arrived in the country. He was received at Khartoum Airport yesterday by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and other ministers. Col Yunis told a press conference that his visit to Sudan was not connected to official protocol or formalities, but he could visit Sudan whenever he wished as Sudan was his second home. He said he was making the visit to promote the development of fraternal bilateral relations in the economic, political, cultural, and security fields. The Sudanese and Libyan sides had important meetings following the arrival of the delegation.

Meets With Prime Minister

EA1902171589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum 19 Feb (SUNA)—Member of the Libyan historic leadership and commander in chief of the Libyan Army, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunus Jabir met here yesterday with members of the Council of the State Dr Ali Hasan Taj al-Din and Mirghani Al-Nasri. Dr Taj al-Din hailed the Arab Maghreb economic unity and said that the Arab world witnessed positive (?regrouping) towards the formation of Arab economic unity.

On the other hand, the Libyan official who arrived here yesterday, also met with Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Foreign Minister Hasan al-Turabi and discussed with them issues of mutual concern.

Holds News Conference

EA1902182689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] The chairman and the members of the State Council at the Republican Palace this afternoon met Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Revolution and commander in

chief of the Libyan Armed Forces. Col Yunis told the press that he and the chairman and members of the State Council had discussed Libyan-Sudanese relations, bilateral co-operation and Arab and international issues. He said a clear picture of relations between the two countries would be arrived at within the next few days.

He also discussed his tour of Djibouti, Somalia, Oman, and Yemen, saying its aim had been to establish an Arab grouping in the southern part of the Arab homeland and to link the homeland with both Asia and Africa. He added that he had received a a positive response from those countries.

Visits Al-Mirghani

LD2002001189 Tripoli JANA in English 1812 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Nawwar [February] 19, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ahmad al-Mirghani, the president of the Sudanese State Council, this afternoon received Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

Present at the meeting were Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din and Mirghani al-Nasri, members of the Sudanese State Council.

After the meeting, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir made a statement to journalists saying that the meeting discussed fraternal relations linking the (?Arab) people in great Jamahiryah and Sudan. He stressed that the coming days the relations between the two countries will see more accurate and clearer formula. [sentence as received]

He made clear that his current visits to some Arab countries is related to the setting up of a grouping consisting of the southern parts of the Arab homeland stretching from Oman to North Yemen, South Yemen, Somalia and Djibouti so as to make a link between the Arab African part and the Arab Asian part. He asserted that he found a great response from the countries he visited to this subject.

Conveys Peace Proposal

LD2102115489 Tripoli JANA in English 0824 GMT 21 GMT Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Nawar 21, [21 February] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The premier of Sudan, Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir has conveyed to Sudan a new proposal for peace that has been accepted by Ethiopia which he paid a visit to before arriving in Sudan.

Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi adds in comments he made and reported on Sudan's TV Sunday night that the Sudanese government studies and evaluates all the steps pertaining to the promotion of relations between Sudan and Ethiopia with the context of general consultations [words indistinct] the relations between Sudan and all its neighbours.

Rebels Deny Halting Red Cross Relief Operations

EA1802205689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] A responsible source in the SPLM/SPLA is totally committed to the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, programme of taking relief to the needy people in south Sudan in the towns agreed upon before. [sentence as heard] The source described as untrue the rumors emanating from Nairobi that the movement has ordered an end to the said operation. He stated that in our situation, where communications are rudimentary, some delays in getting clearances from the field are unavoidable, but this does not in any way mean that there is a change of mind from the side of the movement.

Red Cross To Resume Flights

LD2202102689 Berne International Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross says it is resuming food relief flights to southern Sudan, which were suspended a week ago. The airlifts were suspended following requests by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army for amended Red Cross flight schedules. Two aircraft made available by France are to airlift supplies to areas controlled by rebels and government forces.

Drug Operation Called 'Biggest' in History

EA1602223489 Khartoum National Unity Radio Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The biggest drug operation in Sudan's history has been uncovered with the arrest by the antidrug squad in Port Sudan, which is affiliated to the Central CID, in cooperation with the Saudi antidrug squad, of members of a gang engaged in smuggling drugs to Saudi Arabia through Sudan. The value of the drugs seized is 9,700,000 Saudi riyals, according to a press statement issued by acting CID chief, Umar Sulayman Sawi. He said the drugs, 3 kg of heroin and 520,000 (ticonal) tablets, came from a European country.

Kuwait

Authorities Ban Publication of 'Satanic Verses'

LD2302104989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Islamic Republic News Agency reports that Hojjat-ol Eslam Imam Jamarani, the imam's representative, who is in charge of the Pilgrimage, Endowments, and Charities Affairs Organization of our country, has sent a written message to Kuwait's minister of endowments and Islamic affairs on the need for Muslims to confront the blasphemous book of Salman Rushdie.

The charge d'affaires of our country in Kuwait today handed over the said message to Khalid al-Jasar, Kuwait's endowments and Islamic affairs minister. The Kuwaiti minister of endowments and Islamic affairs appreciated the position taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the insulting book of Salman Rushdie. He said that the Kuwaiti authorities concerned have prevented the publication of "The Satanic Verses" in Kuwait.

He said the all-embracing protest by the Muslims over the publication of Rushdie's book will ensure that in the future nobody will dare insult the sanctity of Islam.

Amir Comments on Arab Cooperation Council

JN1702194489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Cable from Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to Jordan's King Husayn—date not given]

[Text] It pleases me in the wake of the proclamation of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council to express to you on behalf of the Kuwaiti people and in my own name our sincerest congratulations on the consummation of this important step on the road of inter-Arab integration and cohesion and of unifying Arab efforts and stands to serve our glorious nation and realize the ambitions and aspirations of our peoples as regards the attainment of understanding and rapprochement. I beseech Almighty God to help the efforts of the Arab nation's leaders succeed and to grant them success so that they can realize benefits to their nation and peoples. It is God who grants success. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Afghan Envoy Interviewed on Efforts To End War

LD1902132189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1143 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 19 (KUNA)—An Afghan diplomat said here Sunday [19 February] his country attaches great hopes on any efforts by the Organization of Islamic Conference chaired by Kuwait to bring a peaceful settlement to the Afghan issue.

A diplomat at the Afghan Embassy here Aman Kamran [name as received] told daily AL-WATAN that his country had formed a committee from Afghan figures to meet with former King Mohammed Zahir Shah to rid Afghanistan of a bloody civil war.

Kamran regretted interference by senior Western officials in his country's internal affairs, citing U.S. President George Bush's statement that Washington would continue its arms support to the fundamentalist opposition. The call by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe on President Najibullah to leave the country is also an intervention in Afghanistan's affairs, he added.

Following Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan there will be no justification for continuation of conflict, he said. Disclosing that secret negotiations are under way between the government and the opposition and the outcome will be announced at the appropriate time.

Drug Addiction Reportedly 'Not Widespread'

JN2002170089 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 19 Feb 89 p 4

[Text] Drug addiction in Kuwait is not a major problem and according to available statistics, addiction in Kuwait is not widespread, according to a high ranking Kuwaiti official.

Col. 'Abdallal al-Faris, director general of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), described as baseless, press reports that drug addiction and similar bad habits like inhalation of some materials like Patex was widespread among youth and school boys. He also denied that drug addiction is widespread among school boys.

CID personnel have been successful in apprehending people who tried to plant some narcotics in their gardens and pharmacists selling drugs and pills.

The ministry will soon be introducing the services of dogs to sniff drugs which will enhance the capabilities of customs and police personnel, Al-Faris said.

He added that in 1988, 330 persons were arrested for either trading, smuggling or possession of drugs and narcotics. A total of over 64.5 kilos of hashish, 4.5 kilos of heroin, about 9 kilos of opium, over 5 kilos of marijuana, and over 1.8 million [not further specified] of various pills and other narcotics were seized.

Drug traffickers are using sophisticated means to bring in the contraband. Some recently tried to smuggle drugs in car batteries. The car batteries were divided—the part containing the acidified water was divided into two compartments—the lower part held the drugs. In another attempt a merchant put 33 kilos of hashish in cigarettes exported to Kuwait. The strangest case has been where heroin was concealed within potatoes being brought in a truck from Lebanon.

The biggest quantity of drugs seized at any one time in Kuwait was 3.6 kgs of heroin during the baginning of last year, Al-Faris said.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Cited on Afghan Situation

PM2202115889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Feb 89 pp 1-2

[Muhammad al-Tunsi report: "Sa'ud al-Faysal To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: King Fahd Hopes Afghanistan Will Return Free and Independent"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has emphasized that the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan, whose last phase was completed last Wednesday, "signals the beginning of a new stage in the Afghan people's struggle."

Answering a question on the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan, Al-Faysal said, in a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, that "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has followed with interest the withdrawal stages and expressed satisfaction at its completion on the set date, thus giving the Afghan people the opportunity to choose whichever regime they want so that Afghanistan will return free, independent, and fully sovereign."

The Saudi foreign minister added that what has happened is a crucial victory for the Afghan people and the outcome of a 9-year jihad involving all the Afghan parties concerned against foreign occupation of an Islamic territory. The Afghan people have paid a sacrifice in terms of effort, bloodshed, and money to achieve that precious objective.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed hope that "the Afghan people will seize this opportunity to close their ranks and choose a regime acceptable to them, ignoring suspect campaigns instigated by spiteful quarters, in order to concentrate on building their state, preserving the Afghan people's unity, protecting their gains, and maintaining their independence.

He pointed out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which "has always backed the Afghan people in their struggle to achieve their independence and rid themselves of the yoke of occupation in past years—an issue to which the Custodian of the Two holy Mosques and his government have devoted great interest—now provides the people with all the necessary support and backing."

The Saudi foreign minister concluded by saying: "The Islamic world today looks at what is happening in Afghanistan with full confidence that the Afghan people, who have managed to remove the aggressive foreign forces from their territory, are capable of confronting future challenges." [passage omitted]

Government Fulfills Financial Pledge to PLO

LD1602203689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0856 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 16 (KUNA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Rafiq al-Natshah said he received Wednesday a check in the amount of 14.25 million U.S. dollars from the Saudi Government.

Natshah told SPA that the check is the last installment of the sum given by the Kingdom to the Palestine Liberation Organisation for the year 1988 in comply with the resolutions of 1978 Arab summit.

He told the news agency that the Kingdom has so far given PLO 850.5 million dollars since 1978 in addition to other grants.

Natshah said the Kingdom is the only country which has paid its commitment in full so far.

Natshah said King Fahd has given his orders for the payment of 6.02 million dollars to PLO monthly from January 1989 after it has fully paid its commitments to the organization under Baghdad summit resolutions.

United Arab Emirates

PLO's Qaddumi Delivers Message to President

JN1802100789 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on developments of the Palestine question and the Palestinian political moves to win international support for a solution to this question and restoration of peace in the Middle East. The message also deals with developments in the continuous Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied homeland.

The message was delivered by Faruq Qaddumi, head of PLO's Political Department, when his highness the president received him this morning at the [name indistinct] palace. The meeting was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Khalid Malak, Palestinian charge d'affaires to the state.

Briefs Defense Minister

JN2002173089 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Dubayy, Feb 20 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates today told the PLO to continue to struggle and pledged support for its 14-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"You should continue to struggle to tighten the siege on Israel where despair has found its way into its leaders and army after the success of the PLO political moves, thanks to its intifadah (uprising)," UAE Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum said.

The Emirates News Agency said that he made the remark during talks with head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, who arrived in the UAE on Saturday and met President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan.

Shaykh Muhammad and Qaddumi discussed the Palestinian uprising and the PLO political moves and the PLO leader hailed the UAE support for the revolt.

Qaddumi briefed Shaykh Muhammad on the PLO moves to achieve peace in the Middle East and the "radical" change in the world public opinion towards the Palestinian cause.

"It is important to back the Palestinian uprising which has become a sharp Arab sword facing Israel and which has greatly helped in destroying Israel's military character and undermining the morale of the Israeli troops," Shaykh Muhammad said.

Departs 21 Feb

JN2102163689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Dubayy, 21 Feb (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, left Dubayy today at the end of a several-day visit to the UAE. During the visit, Qaddumi met with a number of senior UAE officials.

Egypt's Mubarak Confers With Deputy Premier

JN2202104389 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a round of talks at the president's office this morning. President Mubarak also received Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad in his place of residence at the guest palace this morning. They reviewed the close brotherly relations between the two countries and ways to promote them in various areas. They also discussed the overall current situation, including developments in the Palestine question in the Arab and international arenas, current efforts to hold an international peace conference, the situation in Lebanon, and a number of issues of common interest to the two countries. A responsible source said that the meeting was positive and fruitful and that a brotherly spirit, which characterizes the close brotherly relations between the two countries, prevailed in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying the Egyptian president, Nasir al-Wis, Finance and Industry Ministry under secretary and director general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development; the UAE ambassador in Cairo; and the Egyptian ambassador to the UAE.

Speaks on Meeting

NC2202132589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has praised UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, saying: Shaykh Zayid is a great brother for whom I and the Egyptian people harbor all affection. His good reputation leaves no room for elaboration, the president said.

This was stated by President Mubarak before leaving Abu Dhabi for Tokyo today.

The president described his talks with Shaykh Zayid as excellent, adding that they demonstrated the strong bilateral ties linking Egypt and the UAE.

He stated that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and a variety of other issues. The president remarked: We are all in it together.

Responding to a question on emerging Arab groupings and their interrelations, the president said: We are all acting within the framework of the Arab League, and each group is brought together by similar features. However, he said, we are all Arabs and coordination is a prerequisite for any national action.

President Mubarak emphasized that the Arab Cooperation Council which was declared recently is open to all and not directed against anyone.

To a question on the international peace conference, President Mubarak said: We all want to hold the international conference and I emphasized this at recent meetings in Cairo. He added that his meeting in Tokyo with U.S. President George Bush under the present circumstances will not mke it possible to discuss everything in detail. However, he said, we will review viewpoints in order to help resolve the Palestinian issue.

Commenting on his meeting with President Mubarak, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan said: The principles which we in the Gulf Cooperation Council believe in strengthen our confidence in the Arab Cooperation Council, which further solidifies these principles and adds to them. This is what we hope for the Arab nation, he said.

Shaykh Zayid said the problems of the Arab nation can be resolved through such groupings. He added that President Mubarak is shouldering responsibility for contacts and consultations in this regard, and we support him.

Departs 22 Feb

JN2202164789 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 22 (GNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak left Abu Dhabi for Tokyo today after a two-day visit to the UAE. He was seen off by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayan.

The UAE president held earlier today talks with the Egyptian president with the attendance of officials from both countries. A responsible source told Emirates News Agency that the talks between Shaykh Zayid and President Mubarak focused on Egypt's role in coordinating Arab stands.

He said Mubarak briefed Shaykh Zayid on the goals and developments that led to the creation of the ACC, adding Shaykh Zayid blessed the group and the five-nation great Maghreb unity as well.

More on Tariq 'Aziz 21 Feb News Conference

JN2302061089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the absence of compliance with the Arab League resolutions, which are adopted with a majority vote, was one of the factors which have weakened the League.

In a news conference held here yesterday, the second part of which was published today, 'Aziz added that noncompliance with the Arab League resolutions, which are adopted with a majority vote by the League members, has weakened the implementation of these resolutions during the past 4 decades.

'Aziz said that the Arab League has become "a stage for debates and differences plaguing parties whose conduct conflicts with the spirit and letter of the Arab League charter. These parties are physically affiliated to the League. However, they are not contributing to the efforts which seek to make it a League. These parties have turned the League into an arena for disputes, differences, and halting joint action".

'Aziz affirmed that the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] seek to make their conduct a model for serious and real cooperative Arab action that would strengthen the pillars of the Arab League as well as the objectives behind launching that League. He also stressed that the inter-Arab political cooperation will be effected through the Arab League.

The foreign minister added that if inter-Arab cooperation is to be maintained with both the GCC and the Arab Maghreb Union, this cooperation will tackle the economic field, "because if political cooperation is maintained among the three councils, this would mean the total destruction of the Arab League and the elimination of its role. This runs counter to the objectives which the four states of the ACC seek to achieve".

'Aziz said that the ACC member states want to strengthen the institution of the Arab League and the institutions of joint Arab action. He stressed the importance of the Arab League's role in bolstering the institutions of joint Arab action. He affirmed that the Arab League's performance is the grand total of the performance of the Arab states and said that the performance or nonperformance by the Arab League of its duties is contingent upon the Arab states which must be held responsible for this. He said that the reason behind this state of affairs is the structure of the League itself. He spelled out two obstacles hindering the League's work; namely, the voting obstacle and the irregularity of the League sessions. He added that the Arab League would produce far more results than it has produced so far if these obstacles are removed.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the establishment of the ACC "must be welcomed by the Arab brothers", as this is a pan-Arab move that would serve the four Arab states as well as the Arab nation. He added that most Arab states have so far welcomed the launching of the ACC. 'Aziz said that the level of political understanding realized among the four states is very good and the stands of the ACC member states are well known. He said that the ACC has a political content and added that the introductory passage in the foundation agreement provided for this content. He asserted that the ACC work will be based on the compliance of all member states with the decisions approved by the majority. He said that any Arab state which seeks to join the ACC must draw the correct conclusions. It must coordinate its stands and establish ties with the ACC member states on bases conducive to that grouping.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that the initiation of the ACC work will begin in April when many details will be discussed. He added that the establishment of the ACC will neither revoke the economic policies being pursued by the member states nor kill the bilateral relations being maintained by the member states with other countries.

'Aziz referred to Egypt's return to the Arab League and said that its return has become a logical and inevitable eventuality. He added that the first decision that will be made by the Arab summit once it convenes will be the return of Egypt—which will participate in the meetings of that very summit.

'Aziz said that Egypt's return to the Arab League does not hinge on securing a unanimous vote, as its membership in the League is only suspended. He said that a decision made with a majority vote is enough to bring about its return to the League, since the decision on suspending its membership in the League was also made with a majority vote and not a unanimous one.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the agreements signed by the ACC member states [with other countries], regardless of the nature of these agreements, are not binding to other member states and said that "this is clear".

'Aziz added that the ACC formula enshrined in its charter does not stipulate that the obligations of each of the member states shall be binding to other member states. He affirmed that the Iraqi stand on the Camp David accords has remained unchanged and the Palestine question is facing a new phase that has politically conspicuous manifestations.

'Aziz asserted that the Palestinian people's legitimate institutions headed by the PNC have adopted resolutions and stressed that Iraq supported these resolutions because they were made by the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian Arab people. He added that Iraq has

supported the political and diplomatic efforts of the Palestinian leadership. He said that all that serves the Palestine question enjoys the support of Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the mission confronting Iraq on the pan-Arab level right now is that of extending support for the PLO in its options which were formulated in all earnestness.

'Aziz affirmed that we must seek means to express the realities—means that are in harmony with the spirit of the age. One of these realities, he said, pertains to the issue of interfering in the internal affairs of others, as "interference in others' internal affairs does not make one a pan-Arabist". He added that this can be expressed through offering a good example for pan-Arab action in which no custodianship would be imposed on anybody.

Saddam Husayn Presides Over Cabinet Meeting

JN2102113689 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb.21, INA—President Saddam Husayn presided yesterday evening over a meeting of the Council of Ministers which lasted more than five hours.

The meeting was devoted to discuss the topics listed on its agenda and necessary measures and decisions concerning them were taken. Among the decisions was approval of a plan for reconstruction of Al-Faw town following detailed discussions on the town's reconstruction.

President Saddam Husayn ordered that the town should be built in a special style harmonious with the distinguished stature of Al-Faw in the course of our defensive war and the battles of liberation.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution command Council (RCC), the first deputy premier and Mr. Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, member of the RCC, the vice president, members of the RCC, the ministers and a number of officials.

75 More POW's Return Home From Iran

JN2202165089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Seventy-five sick and handicapped Iraqi POW's returned home at noon Friday.

Immediately on disembarking from the plane which brought them from Iran to Baghdad, the returning POW's kissed the national soil showing nostalgia and reverence, chanting slogans imploring God to grant long life to leader President Saddam Husayn and voicing their happiness on the great victory realized by his heroic troops in defense of the immaculate soil of Iraq.

The returning POW's were welcomed by the secretary of the War Victims Standing Committee and a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Baghdad.

The POW's were accompanied by an ICRC delegation. Eighty sick and wounded Iraqi POW's returned to Baghdad yesterday.

78 More POW's Return

JN2302124489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—Seventy-eight sick and handicapped POW's returned home today, raising to 233 the number of POW's who have recently returned home. This figure is less than the number of Iranian POW's released by Iraq, which totaled 255 POW's.

The returning POW's chanted slogans greeting the cherished homeland and great leader Saddam Husayn and expressing their pride in the decisive victory which raised high the heads of Iraqis. Receiving the returning POW's were the chairman and members of the higher standing committee on reception of the POW's, the secretary of the war victims standing committee, and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Baghdad. An ICRC mission accompanied the returning POW's aboard the special plane. With the arrival of this batch, the sick and handicapped POW's who have returned home since the day before yesterday, Tuesday, has totaled 233 POW's.

Arens, Shevardnadze Agree 'To Advance' Relations
TA2302120789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Feb 89 p 1

[Report from Cairo by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze decided in yesterday's meeting in Cairo to advance political relations between Israel and the USSR without making this public.

HADASHOT has learned that the consular delegations will be expanded and will become permanent delegations. Experts from both countries will meet in Israel and Moscow to discuss the whole range of relations and ways to advance them. The two foreign ministers also agreed to meet regularly in the future. [passage omitted]

Shamir: No Soviet Role Until Ties Reestablished
TA2302124789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Report from Paris by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has just ended his news conference, in which he repeated the main points of the positions he presented in his talks in Paris. I do not rule out the possibility of free elections in the territories, Shamir said, but they should be part of a more general plan that would be agreed on through negotiations.

The Israeli unity government agrees on three main points: no to the establishment of a Palestinian state; no to negotiations with the PLO; yes to direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab world. The PLO will never be a partner for a dialogue because it is an organization that may want peace, but does not want Israel. I will not meet with Yasir 'Arafat in Moscow, in Cairo, or in Paris. Israel will not change its policy as a result of the violence in the territories. We regret all casualties, but the PLO members in the world are to blame for it, as they encourage the residents to clash with the defense forces. Many Israelis hit by stones remained unconscious, said Shamir.

The Soviet Union can play a role in finding a solution to the conflict in our region, as in any other place in the world, but first it must establish diplomatic relations with Israel, because otherwise it will not hold the objective position needed to influence Israel. Europe could play a moderating role.

After the news conference, Shamir met with a delegation of French Armenians who thanked him for the aid Israel offered Armenia.

Shamir Discusses Meeting With Mitterrand
TA2202160389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir is in Paris, where he has met with President Mitterrand. His visit ends tomorrow. MA'ARIV correspondent Tamar Golan spoke with the prime minister a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] This was not a meeting where either of the parties sought to convince the other. Within time limits, however, our conversation was profound, exhaustive, and broad, and it encompassed most of the issues occupying the Middle East these days.

[Golan] What did you discuss with regard to the PLO?

[Shamir] We discussed the PLO, naturally. I presented my viewpoint with respect to the PLO, which I regard as an obstacle to peace—a serious obstacle, in my opinion. We also discussed the PLO's goal, which is the immediate establishment of a Palestinian state. We exchanged opinions on these issues.

[Golan] Were either of you successful in persuading the other?

[Shamir] This, of course, remains to be seen, but I think I gave the president food for thought. As a matter of fact, he said that there are issues he must think about.

[Golan] You must have received a report on today's extended meeting between Foreign Minister Arens and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. Have you anything to say with respect to the future of our relations with the Soviet Union?

[Shamir] I have received a telephone report which, under the circumstances, was quite brief. The general impression is positive. There is a development in our relations, albeit a slow one. I assume people in Israel will hear, or have already heard, more details from the foreign minister.

[Golan] In an interview with LE FIGARO, you said that you maintain contacts with Palestinians in Israel. Can you tell us the names of the persons with whom you have met and the nature of these contacts? Are they held regularly?

[Shamir] I meet occasionally with people residing in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. These are usually intelligent and respectable people, who are accepted by their public. What we do is talk absolutely freely about the situation.

[Golan] Are these meetings secret?

[Shamir] They are not secret, but I do not publicize their details or the names of the participants. [end recording]

Pazner Denies Shamir To Meet With Moroccan King

TA2302075289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, in Paris by Ilana Dayan and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Good morning, Mr Pazner.

[Pazner] Good morning.

[Dayan] Foreign Minister Arens left Cairo, and Yasir 'Arafat arrived there, while Prime Minister Shamir has come to Paris and asked Mitterrand not to meet with 'Arafat. Is it your impression that in saying that Shamir has given him food for thought on this issues Mitterrand actually means that his plan to meet with 'Arafat will be shelved for the time being?

[Pazner] At the conclusion of the meeting with the prime minister, Mitterrand said that he now has a lot to think about; however, he failed to explain the meaning of this statement. We were left with the impression that he heard a thorough report from the prime minister and that he now wishes to think about it.

[Dayan] Did the prime minister explicitly say that he recommends or advises that Mitterrand not meet with 'Arafat?

[Pazner] The prime minister explained to Mitterrand that every time an international leader meets with 'Arafat that meeting strengthens 'Arafat, bolsters the PLO, and encourages violence and terror. Shamir has gone to great lengths to make the damage such meetings could cause very clear. I believe that Mitterrand has understood the message very clearly. When he says he has food for thought, I assume this is what he is referring to. At the moment, however, it is impossible to tell what Mitterrand's conclusion will be.

[Friedman] Could you, as the prime minister's media adviser, confirm or perhaps deny yesterday's LE CANARD ENCHAINE report that King Hassan II of Morocco and Israel's Prime Minister Shamir are planning to meet, perhaps as early as next month?

[Pazner] The prime minister was asked about it yesterday, and he replied that he knows of no such plan. On the other hand, he reaffirmed that he is willing to meet with King Hassan II of Morocco, as well as any peace-seeking Arab leader, with the exclusion of 'Arafat, anytime, anywhere. The speculations concerning King Hassan made headlines here, but I would like to point out that the Moroccan Embassy in Paris has also denied all knowledge of such a meeting.

[Friedman] Could it be that the two already met the day before yesterday between 12 am and 6 pm—those 6 free hours in the prime minister's itinerary for which no journalist can account?

[Pazner] There is no account of what he actually did, but I can tell you truthfully that I know for sure that he did not meet with King Hassan II during these hours.

[Dayan] And he did not meet with any other peace-seeking Arab leader, as you earlier termed those with whom Shamir is willing to meet?

[Pazner] Look, it was a private meeting. I do not wish to expand on this issue at present. I must repeat and stress, however, that no meeting with Hassan has taken place.

[Friedman] Will the report on this meeting, if and when it is published, be earth-shattering?

[Pazner] I do not think so.

[Dayan] Thank you very much, Mr Pazner.

PLO Leader Advocates Coexistence in Videotape

TA2202154289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Salah Khalaf, 'Arafat's deputy, says in a videocassette played in Jerusalem that the PLO recognizes the principle that in our region two peoples should live in coexistence in two states. According to him an international conference should be convened after an agreement is achieved between Israel and the PLO in direct negotiations. The role of the conference will be to offer guarantees for this agreement. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the videocassette was played in Jerusalem in the framework of the International Peace Center conference. In his message, Abu Iyad [Khalaf] says that the proposed settlement is not merely a stage in the PLO's struggle, but rather expresses a desire for a permanent settlement.

The two Soviet representatives to the conference met Minister Shim'on Peres this afternoon. Following the meeting, Peres' aide Nimrod Novik told our correspondent Menahem Friedman that the Soviet guests hinted at an imminent resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel. They also urged the tightening of economic relations between the two countries.

More on 'Direct Peace Appeal'

TA2202184289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Excerpt] PLO deputy chairman Abu Iyad has made a direct peace appeal to the Israeli public. A 10-minute video message was screened this afternoon at a peace symposium in Jerusalem. Mark Weiss reports:

The video message by the No 2 man in Fatah, Abu Iyad, was filmed last week in Tunis. It was shown on a giant screen this afternoon at a symposium organized by the International Center for Middle East peace with simultaneous translation into Hebrew. In his message, Abu Iyad, also known as Salah Khalaf, denies that recent PLO peace calls are merely the first stage in an overall plan. He acknowledged that there are extremists in the Palestinian camp and urged both sides to encounter extremism head on. Abu Iyad said the PLO is ready for any kind of talks with Israel, secret or open, where all issues can be discussed, including the PLO covenant. He said such a dialogue should take place in advance of an international peace conference. [passage omitted]

Dissident Condemns Khalaf

JN2302073089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The group of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] has strongly condemned a call by Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, in which he advocated direct negotiations with Israel. The group supported the idea of proclaiming a national leadership alternative to Yasir 'Arafat. Abu Iyad has suggested that the PLO change the national Palestinian charter. He said that the PLO came to the conclusion that it is not possible to annihilate the state of Israel and that the realistic solution lies in peace. He stressed that coexistence is not the first stage but the ultimate solution, which will be achieved through the establishment of two states for the two peoples of the holy land.

Abu Iyad's statements came in a videocassette he sent to the seminar of the International Peace Center in Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni: New State 'Need Not Have an Army'

TA2002084589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Feb 89 p 10

[Report by political correspondent Dan Petreanu]

[Text] A Palestinian state need not have an army, Faysal al-Husayni told a Tel Aviv audience yesterday. Making his first public appearance since he was released from prison a month ago, Al-Husayni—a PLO supporter who is considered one of the leading figures in the territories—also blasted the murderers of Shlomo Kohen, stabbed to death in Jerusalem Saturday, asserting that "nothing can damage the prospects for peace more than these sorts of acts."

"We regret all bloodshed—we don't differentiate between your blood and ours," said Al-Husayni. "We reject any violence that is motivated by racism or nationalism."

Al-Husayni surprised even the most optimistic among his sympathetic audience by saying that he would be willing to accept, in lieu of an army, international guarantees for the integrity of a Palestinian state.

"What do armies do in this part of the world?" he said. "Either they take over the country in coups or they end up in the Knesset in other ways."

He said that the fact that such a state will "depend on international promises in the end," is the reason he insists on an international conference.

Al-Husayni repeatedly emphasized that "the solution we reach through negotiations will be a final one, after which we will have no further claims on one centimetre of your land. We're talking about a real peace with final borders."

Al-Husayni refused, however, to abandon the demand that Palestinians from within the Green Line be allowed to return to their original homes. He said that "we must talk about a real scenario of peace" in which Israelis should be no more opposed to a Palestinian owning property in their country "than the British fear a Frenchman living in London."

The "dialogue with the Israeli people"—launched in three meetings Al-Husayni held with politicians from the Labour Party, MAPAM and the Centre-Shinuy Party last week—will continue, Al-Husayni pledged. However, he challenged the Labour MKs [Knesset Members] to "prove that they don't just talk but also act" by intervening on behalf of Sam'an Khuri, an East Jerusalem journalist who participated in the talks and was arrested on Saturday.

Implying that the arrest was connected with the meetings, Al-Husayni said: "He was arrested by the defence minister, who is also a member of the Labour Party, 48 hours after we met with his (Rabin's) colleagues."

He said the arrest illustrates why he is opposed to holding elections in the territories "before the occupation forces withdraw... How can we be sure such elections will be democratic when these sorts of things go on all the time?" he said.

"The intifadah [uprising] has brought us to the last quarter hour," said Al-Husayni. "This is because until now we were constantly involved in conflicts on other people's lands. Now our people appear to have decided that the struggle is over their own land and not somebody else's."

UK's Howe on Mideast, Upcoming Waldegrave Visit

TA1802204989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Interview with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe by London correspondent Jerry Lewis; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Howe] I don't begin to suggest that Britain is or should be launching new initiatives. I think everyone recognizes that the most important single country in

carrying the peace process forward is the United States. But I think Britain, with her relationship with the United States, her partnership in the European Community, our wide range of contacts in the Arab world, and our long-standing friendship with Israel can play a part in carrying the process forward.

[Lewis] There is a distinct impression that Mrs Thatcher is being almost separated from the Foreign Office, at least in the eyes of the Israelis. They believe she's got a direct personal role to play, but little is now being said about the Foreign Office's involvement. Are there any differences in approach?

[Howe] There are not only no differences between the prime minister and myself. We're members of the same government, we discuss this thing almost incessantly. There are really no differences between the views that we are putting forward and the view of all Israel's friends around the world. The important message to get through to all people concerned in the search for peace is both virtual unanimity in understanding the need for Israel to respond to the important shift in position, the stated position, of the Palestinian leadership in recent weeks. Equally then, we must say that Israel can't be expected to respond without a great deal of reflection and thought. Enormous sympathy with the anxiety that faces the Israeli Government because it's been a hard task for them to establish Israel as a state within its own boundaries with any prospect of security. We want to see that put on a stable footing. But to pretend that this discussion can be advanced by talking about nuances between Margaret Thatcher and myself is to deceive oneself about the real world.

[Lewis] Mr Waldegrave caused certain ripples in Israel during his recent visit to Tunis, and David Mellor upset Israelis last year when he picked a verbal fight with an Israeli army officer. What guidance are you going to give to Mr Waldegrave for his forthcoming visit to Israel in a couple of weeks time?

[Howe] William Waldegrave is a very experienced and important minister. He needs no guidance from me, other than the guidance of our total policy approach to this. I think the interesting thing is to notice the way in which on all sides of the House of Commons now, whenever this naturally arises—it has arisen there twice in the last 3 days in questions to the prime minister—there is a common theme being expressed, of real anxiety for Israel to respond, as we desperately hope she will, her people and her government, not to our pressure, because it isn't pressure—it's a presentation of the imperative quality of the peace process. And it's a message that comes, I do emphasize, from a foundation of sympathy and understanding.

We, in this country, have seen so much of the struggle that Israel has had to achieve her existence and her independence. We admire it enormously. We admire the championships that your ministers and your presidents have set for human rights and justice which we all cherish as part of our common Judeo-Christian inheritance. So, we want to see all those things taken as the foundation and the opportunity for security for Israel.

[Lewis] Do you consider trying to advise Israel in circumstances like we have today is like banging one's head against a brick wall?

[Howe] We are not just addressing the arguments to the Israeli side. I spent a long time at the beginning of this year going around the Gulf states. It may have looked as though I was engaging in megaphone diplomacy toward the people of Israel; I wasn't. I was engaging in across-the-table diplomacy to the leaders of the Arab countries I was in. And the striking thing is the extent to which they are looking for a moderate solution. They have played their part in shifting the declared position of the Palestinian leadership. They regard that as an important achievement on their part. They want to get a response to that from the Israeli side. So, there are many, many more friends of Israel in the world outside than perhaps Israel realizes. Of course, there are threats and dangers and enemies and people who don't wish the peace process well, and they have to be resisted by the Palestinian leadership as well as faced by the Israeli leadership. So, we don't underestimate the difficulties. But we do believe there is an opportunity, as the prime minister said in Parliament a couple of days ago, a better opportunity than has existed for many years. And we would not like our friends in Israel to let that slip. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Returns From Visit to U.S.

TA1902172989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, returned to Israel this evening at the end of a 10-day visit to the United States. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of staff described the visit as successful, and noted that it had contributed to closer relations between the two armies on the operational and personal levels. The chief of staff toured bases of various branches of the U.S. Army and observed operational performances by Black Hawk and Apache helicopters as well as by the new U.S. M-1 tank.

Gur Rejects Suggestions To Meet With 'Arafat

TA1902123689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Feb 89 p A1, 2

[Report by Ran Dagoni and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Minister Mordekhay Gur has recently rejected three suggestions to meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Gur said, however, that he is holding discreet discussions with Palestinian notables in the territories. It has been learned that the PLO is attempting to woo Israeli notables from the Zionist camp and arrange meetings between them and 'Arafat. Mordekhay Gur exposed 'Arafat's courtship of him, through intermediaries, in a conversation with interviewer Eytan Danzig, yesterday.

Golan Heights Druze Granted New Privileges

TA2002085189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Feb 89 p 10

[Text] Majdal Shams—A week after their subdued behaviour during the anniversary of the imposition of Israeli law on the Golan Heights, local Druze leaders have received notification from the Interior Ministry of a number of benefits that the community will be able to enjoy immediately. In previous years, the anniversary was marked by violent riots.

The ministry announced that the quota of Druze residents allowed to cross the border to visit relatives in Syria will be increased by 50 per cent, to about 400 annually.

The authorities also indicated that they will allow Druze youngsters from the Golan villages to resume their studies at Damascus universities. The studies were stopped two years ago in the wake of the violent anti-Israel riots in the Druze villages on the Heights.

In addition, the ministry promised a substantial increase in the budget of the four Druze municipalities in the area. A request by the local leaders to allow them to export their agricultural crops to Syria was not approved, however.

Druze leaders here expressed satisfaction with the new arrangements saying they would be yet another step to improving relations with the Israeli authorities.

Extreme religious leaders in Majdal Shams, however, defined the new privileges as "blatant bribes the Israeli government is paying to the Druze."

Heads of the Jewish settlements on the Heights were instrumental in convincing the authorities to grant these privileges to the Druze. They described them as the culmination of a process that started two years ago.

Rabin: Palestinians 'Willing To Go on Suffering'

TA2302060489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday toured Haifa and participated in a municipal elections rally. He stressed that firebombs will not bring anyone to the negotiating table, nor will they solve the uprising in the territories. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports:

[Begin recording] [Zohar] [Passage omitted] Referring to the uprising in the territories, Minister Rabin presented a severe interim report. The Palestinians, Rabin said, are willing to go on suffering. He provided figures to illustrate this suffering:

[Rabin] They are some 370 dead, some 8,000 wounded. Approximately 22,000 people have been detained. There are 6,200 detainees in IDF detention facilities and more than 4,000 terrorists in prisons, which comes to over 10,000 Palestinians under lock and key. Their standard of living has dropped by 40 to 50 percent.

[Zohar] Minister Rabin stressed that firebombs will not throw the IDF out of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Only negotiations can bring a solution, he said and stressed that he is aware of the conflicts IDF soldiers face while dealing with the uprising in the territories. [end recording]

Rabin: No 'Magic Solution'

TA2102191989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Arye Golan report from the Knesset]

[Text] In his detailed review of the intifadah's [uprising's] 14 months, the defense minister made it clear to Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members that the elements in question are no terrorist organizations. There are sufficient volunteers for the activities of the uprising, he added; therefore, the arrest of 30 or 40 leaders will not put a stop to this uprising. It is an activity supported by the majority of the population in the territories, which is occasionally guided by elements related to terrorism.

The IDF, Minister Rabin continued, will not be ordered to solve the problem in one fell swoop. Those unprepared to face a prolonged confrontation should not remain in the territories and should draw appropriate personal conclusions. There is no magic solution, he said.

At this point several committee members, including Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar along with Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino and the Likud's 'Uzi Landau, became enraged: Why do you blame the Jews, they asked. The defense minister avoided a direct reply. The army, he said, is trying to overcome violence with minimum friction. The Arab public must not be brought to a point where it has no choice, to a situation where it will have nothing to lose. The population's standard of living has already dropped by 40 percent; the carrot and stick method is working and is sometimes revised. We have dismissed 1,500 teachers in the territories, for instance, and there is a limit to the number of dismissals. Services have been cut drastically, and the transfer of money from the outside has also been limited.

Defense Minister Rabin summed up by saying that the goal is not to liquidate the uprising, but to ensure quiet and law and order.

Rabin Denies 'Dozens' of Minors Among Casualties

TA2302122489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by Marcia Kretzmer]

[Text] Defence Minister Rabin has written to former Supreme Court Justice Moshe 'Etzyoni, president of the Israel branch of Defence for Children International,

repudiating the latter's charges regarding deaths and injuries among children and teenagers in the territories.

Rabin said that only 22 minors have been killed since the start of the intifadah [uprising]. In a February 5 letter to the defence minister, 'Etzyoni had referred to "dozens" of casualties and called on Rabin to do everything possible to prevent them in the future.

Rabin said he took "a grave view" of 'Etzyoni's remarks, and maintained that most of the 22 youngsters killed had participated in disorders. The IDF, he continued, did not kill innocent people, and where there had been deviations from the norm the IDF had put the guilty parties on trial and publicized the offences in order to prevent their recurrence.

The IDF, wrote Rabin, is strict about open-fire orders and does everything in its power to ensure that children are not hurt.

Commenting on Rabin's letter, a source at an international development organization in Jerusalem said that, according to his figures, 70 children and teenagers up to the age of 16 were killed in the first year of the intifadah, through December 9, 1988. The organization, which is compiling a report on children and the intifadah, will soon be releasing its findings officially.

Thirty-five of these, he said, had died from gunshot wounds, 31 from tear-gas, one from beating, and three from intifadah-related incidents. (One of those in the last category, he explained, was crushed by a petrol drum when dismantling a barricade on army orders; another when removing a flag from an electricity pylon.)

It is true, said the source, that most of those killed by gunshot wounds had been involved in "protest activities." But these included demonstrating and flag-waving as well as throwing stones and petrol bombs. How many of these, he wondered, were actually threatening soldiers' lives?

As for the 31 tear-gas deaths, the vast majority of these involved infants under six months of age, he said.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

2 Druze Attempt Bombing

TA2202185389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The alertness of an Israeli driver prevented an attempt to detonate a roadside bomb on the way to Mt Hermon today. Two Druze youths were detained. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

The intention of the two young assailants was clear: To blow up an Israeli vehicle and its passengers. The two prepared the bomb from an IDF 120-mm cannon shell. They laid the bomb on a sharp curve in the road on the way to the Hermon resort. The visibility in this area is zero, according to a police officer, who added that even at a slow speed it is impossible to react. Only a lot of luck, unusual alertness, and coolness on the part of the driver prevented the attack. The driver spotted the bomb in time; his vehicle stopped just in time. The driver saw two youngsters running away. He chased them and succeeded in catching one of them, a 16-year-old youth from the village of Majdal Shams. After a brief interrogation the police detained the other youth. In their interrogation, the two admitted they wanted to kill Jews. The police and the IDF Northern Command launched an investigation into how the two Druze youths came into the possession of an IDF shell.

2 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA2202204989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] A youth and a woman were wounded in disturbances in the Gaza Strip this afternoon. The youth was wounded when the security forces dispersed a riot in the Al-Shati' refugee camp. He was hospitalized in Al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza. The woman, who was wounded in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in east Gaza, was transferred in moderate condition to Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. This is reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

Update on 21, 22 Feb Incidents

TA2302125389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Relatives of a Palestinian father of 15 shot and killed by a soldier Tuesday night at Al-'Ayzariyah, east of Jerusalem, say he was killed in a brawl provoked by soldiers disguised as Arabs.

The relatives' account differs sharply from that put out by the IDF, which said Muhammad Sa'id Rizq, 57, was killed when a soldier opened fire after he was stabbed during an assault by villagers.

According to Rizq's family, men wearing keffiyehs pelted his home with stones Tuesday night. Soldiers had been stationed in the area to catch youths who stoned Arab shops to enforce a three-day general strike, a security source told REUTERS.

"It was a foul-up," REUTERS quoted the source as saying. "They ended up shooting one of the shopkeepers instead of the attackers."

Rizq's sons, who went out to confront the stone-throwers, said they saw men in Arab clothes speaking Arabic with a Hebrew accent, and suspected they were settlers.

A brawl erupted, and one of the men shot Rizq at close range in the heart, apparently when Rizq tried to break up the fight. One of Rizq's sons, who saw his father killed, rushed at one of the assailants and stabbed him, wounding him in the hand. The son was arrested but later released.

A reporter who visited the scene yesterday found four bullet holes in and around the front door of the Rizq home. An IDF spokeswoman had no further information on the incident.

Palestinians yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine with marches in several villages near Ramallah, though processions inside Ramallah and in the old city of Nabulus were quickly broken up by reinforced troops. The towns of Janin, and Tulkarm, and surrounding refugee camps, were under curfew to prevent protests, army roadblocks restricted movement in and out of Ramallah, and the town was closed to the press.

Army raids were reported on several villages in the Ramallah area, and six persons were reported wounded in clashes at Silwad and Kafr Ni'mah. In Ayn Yabrud men were rounded up at the local school and ordered to paint over slogans and remove Palestinian flags. Another person was reported wounded at Surif, near Hebron.

A military-style march by DFLP supporters was reported Tuesday at Arrabah, near Janin, which is considered a stronghold of the movement.

In Nabulus, residents reported that pistol shots were fired Saturday at an IDF lookout post near the municipality building, but there were no casualties. An IDF spokeswoman said she had no knowledge of such an incident.

In the Gaza Strip yesterday, a woman was murdered on suspicion of collaboration and 10 people were shot and wounded in clashes with troops.

The alleged collaborator, Rasmiyya Shakalah, 35, was shot in the head inside the Al-Nasir Children's Hospital in Gaza—where she worked as head of the cleaning sevices staff—yesterday morning. [passage omitted]

In another development, a Palestinian journalist from Gaza who was refused a travel permit to Egypt was told it was because he had been assisting foreign journalists on their visits to Gaza.

Tahir Shritsh, 28, who works with THE JERUSALEM POST and REUTERS, applied six weeks ago for a travel permit to go to Egypt. He was summoned to the Civil Administration and told that the authorities disapproved of his extensive help to visiting journalists, and therefore his request was being rejected.

West Bank Curfews Lifted

TA2302054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] On the Golan Heights, stones were thrown last night at an empty bus. The driver lost control and the bus swerved off the road, but the driver was not hurt. A bomb went off south of East Jerusalem near the village of Al-Shaykh Sa'd, but no one was hurt and no damage was caused by the explosion. In the Bethlehem area, near the village Za'tarah, a young Arab was slightly hurt by a stone thrown by another Arab youth. In Hebron, stones were hurled at Israeli vehicles, and in the village 'Azzun in the Qalqilyah area, a Molotov cocktail was thrown. In both that and the Hebron stone-throwing attack, no one was hurt. [passage omitted]

In Samaria this morning, the army has lifted the curfews from Tulkarm, Janin, and surrounding refugee camps.

Gaza Boys School Closed

TA2302095789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpt] The Al-Falastin High School for Boys in Gaza was closed this morning by order of the military government until further notice. The order was issued in the wake of disturbances and student provocations in the largest and most prominent Gaza school yesterday. More than 1,000 students attend it daily.

After a 3-day strike staged early this week to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the DFLP ended yesterday, this morning was quiet, with laborers leaving regularly for work in Israel.

The curfew imposed yesterday on two Gaza neighborhoods and the Al-Shati' refugee camp was lifted this morning. The area is now open for commerce and traffic. [passage omitted]

2 Reservists Imprisoned

TA2302130589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Feb 89 p A8

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] Two soldiers in the reserves who refused to serve in the territories were sentenced yesterday to 28 days in prison. The two serve in the same reserves unit. They are 36-year-old Sergeant Niv Barzilay, married and the father of two, from Jerusalem; and 29-year-old Avner Yakoba from Kibbutz Bar'am. Yakoba published a letter in the local paper, explaining his action. It was addressed it to the members of his kibbutz.

Five soldiers in the reserves are currently in jail. Fifty-eight soldiers who refused to service in the territories have been incarcerated since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising].

New Military Police Commander Named

TA2002103889 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 89 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Brigadier General Emil Elimelekh, the chief Military Police officer, will retire on Friday and be appointed director general of the Diamond Exchange. It has been learned that Elimelekh will start work at the Diamond Exchange next week. Colonel Shalom Ben-Moshe will replace him on Friday. Ben-Moshe will be promoted to brigadier general.

Soviet Ambassador Comments on Shevardnadze Visit
JN2302080889 JORDAN TIMES Amman in English 23-24 Feb 89 pp 1, 2

[By Ghadir Tahir and P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The latest Soviet drive for peace is the outcome of a very serious Soviet analysis of the situation in the Middle East in light of the latest developments which indicate the time is right for a concerted push for an Arab-Israeli settlement, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Zinchuk said Wednesday.

"This is not just optimism," said the ambassador. "It is a sound analysis of the situation."

Speaking in an interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Zinchuk said the elements in the Soviet conclusion were the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the turn to a moderate strategy by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), changing international public opinion towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and shifting attitudes within the American-Jewish community.

Moscow now believes that "it is time for action," Zinchuk said referring to the current five-state visit to the Middle East by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

At the same time, said the ambassador, the Soviet Union was not proposing any new formula for peace. He said Moscow was in full agreement with Jordan's stand that there was no need for any new initiatives or proposal and what was needed was a mechanism and efforts to implement pertinent U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Soviet drive, the strongest Kremlin diplomatic foray into the Middle East in years, is based on the belief that "dialogue" is the key to iron out the fundamental differences in the Arab-Palestinian stand and the Israeli position as the basis for peace, Zinchuk said. An outline of what could be described as a Soviet-envisaged "mechanism" for peace negotiations was unveiled by Shevardnadze this week. The proposal focuses strongly on the diplomatic abilities of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the U.N. to set common grounds in consultations and close interaction with the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and prepare the ground for an international conference within a timespan of nine months.

He said that Shevardnadze, who met with the Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in separate meetings in Cairo Wednesday, was not seeking any more Palestinian concessions to advance the peace process. The PLO has already made a "very constructive" move towards peace and it was up to Israel to respond positively, he said.

"The hope (in the Shevardnadze-Arens meeting) is that Mr. Arens will listen to reason and it will influence the Israeli position towards taking a more responsible, more constructive attitude," and accept the call for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved, including the PLO, and the five permanent members of the Security Council, he said.

The ambassador reaffirmed that there could be no resumption of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations as long as Israel refused to accept the proposed international conference.

Zinchuk said Moscow categorically rejected Israeli prime minister Yitzhaq Shamir's call for Arab-Israeli peace talks under U.S.-Soviet supervision, circumventing an international conference.

He also dismissed the American interpretation that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 implies partial Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and that the Zionist state could retain some of the lands. "It has been accepted by the Soviet Union and the majority of nations that the resolution means (Israel's) withdrawal from all the occupied territories, because it is accepted by the U.N. that territories cannot be taken by force," Zinchuk said.

The ambassador noted that there was basic agreement between Moscow and the European governments on the principle of an international conference and said consultations were continuing between the Soviet Union and European states on the Middle East. He revealed that the Spanish foreign minister, the current head of the European Community Council of Ministers, was scheduled to visit Moscow in the first week of March for talks with Shevardnadze. Furthermore, he noted, Shevardnadze is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Vienna March 6.

The Middle East is also expected to be discussed as a "high priority issue" in talks Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would have in Britain, France and West Germany in the next few months.

The ambassador confirmed that the Soviet Union was trying to mediate the rift between the Syrian and PLO leaderships and Shevardnadze, who began his Mideast visit in Damascus Feb. 17, discussed the issue with Syrian leaders. He said a fencemending visit to Damascus by 'Arafat was possible, but he did not know when.

The ambassador expressed hope that the next regular Arab summit would be convened soon "and at that summit a resolution would be adopted stating very clearly that all the Arab states are in support of the international conference and, more importantly, that it should be convened urgently because the situation requires it."

The ambassador said the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan which was completed last week bode well for prospects for resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia. "Our presence there (in Afghanistan) was an obstacle to the

establishment or reestablishment of diplomatic relations. Now we are out of Afghanistan and King Fahd has welcomed it. So we hope we will establish ties with Bahrain and Saudi Arabia."

But, he stressed, further developments within Afghanistan would not have any bearing on Soviet-Saudi relations since "we have left it to the Afghan people to decide their future for themselves."

The quest for permanent peace between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war is expected to figure high in Shevardnadze's talks this week in Baghdad and Tehran. Asked whether the Soviet Union was involved in a reported proposal to set up an international panel to dredge the Shatt al-'Arab waterway as a catalyst to push the stalled negotiations under U.N. auspices, Zinchuk said: "We would support any idea which would help to bridge the differences between them, including the creation of a neutral body," he did not elaborate.

Contacts on Al-'Aqabah Crossing Point Denied

JN2202193989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] A Jordanian Tourism Ministry source has categorically denied the existence of any Jordanian-Israeli contacts to open a crossing point between the port of Al-'Aqabah in Jordan and the port of Eilat in southern Israel.

An Israeli Tourism Ministry spokesman said yesterday that Israel had held discussions with Jordan to allow tourists to cross from one port to the other and that Amman had consented.

All Political Prisoners Now Said Released

PM2202131389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Feb 89 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Jordanian Interior Minister to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Political Prisoners in Jordan After the 30 Prisoners' Release"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani has announced that the first phase of the royal amnesty to release political prisoners and halve the prison sentences of ordinary prisoners was implemented yesterday with the release of 30 political prisoners. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday Al-Dajani said that the 30 people released include 23 members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

He added that those 30 constituted all the prisoners detained for security reasons or because of their affiliation to political and party organizations. He said that the royal decision issued the evening before last has ended all talk about the existence of political prisoners in Jordan.

He confirmed that those were the only such prisoners in Jordan, indicating that any media reports to the contrary are designed to harm and distort Jordan's reputation.

The Jordanian interior minister said that the number of prisoners involved in various crimes covered by the decision will be announced today after their cases are examined.

He added that the amnesty decision will not include those involved in major crimes. [passage omitted]

Former Information Minister Layla Sharaf said: This is good news. It shows that Jordan deals sensitively with Arab and world opinion. It also improves our image. It is a good response to any true or false image of us.

As'ad 'Abd al-Rahman, member of PLO Central Council and member of the board of directors of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, described the royal amnesty as a major step forward. He said: We hope that the amnesty will result in the release of all administrative detainees, because that would demonstrate peaceable intent.

A Jordanian security source said that among those released are Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Kufahi, former member of the dissolved Jordanian House of Representatives, and Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman Abu Zant, a mosque imam.

The sources added that Shaykh al-Kufahi was arrested nearly 20 days ago.

Islamic Jihad Threatens Revenge in Rushdie Case

NC2302082989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, which is holding three American hostages in Lebanon, declared today that it will take revenge on all those who are participating in the fierce anti-Islamic campaign with regard to the issue of Salman Rushdie. In a handwritten Arabic statement accompanied by a photo of the three professors [Alann Steen, Jesse Turner, Robert Polhill] who were kidnapped in January 1987, the Islamic Jihad stated that it will take revenge on all establishments and organizations that have insulted in one way or another the great Prophets' sanctities.

Further on Jihad Statement

NC2302083089 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb 23 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP), which is thought to hold three U.S. hostages in Lebanon, threatened reprisals Thursday against those who have "insulted Islam" in the Salman Rushdie affair.

In an Arabic-language statement accompanied by color photos of the hostages sent to a Western news agency here, the organization said it would "take its revenge against all institutions and organizations that have insulted Islam and its great prophets."

The threat follows growing Western protests to an Iranian death decree against British novelist Salman Rushdie whose book "The Satanic Verses" have been criticized by Moslems for allegedly blaspheming Islam. Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni called on Moslems worldwide to seek to put the Indian-born writer to death.

"Let U.S. imperialism and world Zionism beware that in defending the vile content of 'The Satanic Verses', they have tied their fates to that of the Indian writer and to those who propagate this hostile campaign against Islam," the IJLP said.

The IJLP threat also follows "savage Zionist and imperialist information campaigns which are hostile to Islam," the statement said.

The organization has claimed responsibility for the abduction of Alann Steen, Jesse Turner and Robert Polhill, three faculty members at Beirut University College who were abducted on January 27, 1987.

A fourth faculty member held by the group, Mitheleswhar Singh, an Indian with U.S. permanent residence, was freed last October 3.

Islamic Jihad Hints at Hostage Release Delay

NC2302093689 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 23 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP), believed to hold three U.S. hostages in Lebanon, hinted Thursday that their release could be delayed because of Western support for Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses."

In an Arabic-language statement sent to a Western news agency here, accompanied by color photos of the hostages, the group also vowed to "take its revenge against all institutions and organizations that have insulted Islam and its great prophets."

The IJLP, a clandestine organization, holds positions similar to those advocated by pro-Iranian Lebanese Shi'ite fundamentalists.

Its threat follows growing Western protest over an Iranian death decree against Mr Rushdie, whose book has been denounced in the Moslem world as blasphemous to Islam. Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has called on Moslems worldwide to hunt down and kill the British-based Indian-born writer.

The IJLP stressed that it "had worked hard to find a peaceful solution to the hostage affair to show its good intentions at a time when international overtures are being made on the issue."

But it added: "It now seems that imperialism and Zionism want Moslems to renounce their beliefs in order to live in the shadow of such international detente."

"Let U.S. imperialism and world Zionism beware that in defending the vile content of 'The Satanic Verses', they have tied their fates to that of the Indian writer and to those who propagate this hostile campaign against Islam," the IJLP said.

The statement also condemned "the absolute silence in the Islamic world in the face of venomous Western campaigns" against Islam. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Surrender Beirut Port Area

NC2202225989 Paris AFP in English 2253 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb 22 (AFP)—The main Maronite Christian militia, the Lebanese Forces, agreed on Wednesday to surrender control of part of the port of Beirut to the Army and to withdraw from all checkpoints on the edges of areas it controls.

The agreement, at a special committee meeting here, followed a week of clashes between the two forces which left about 80 dead and 200 wounded.

It also coincided with a quickening campaign to break the power of the Lebanese Forces (LF) by the Army chief, General Michel 'Awn, who heads one of Lebanon's two rival governments.

Gen. 'Awn, himself a Maronite Christian, accused the LF on Tuesday of trying to set up a "confessional mini-state" in the 1,500 square kilometres it controls north and east of the capital, and urged local people not to pay taxes illegally raised by the militia.

At Wednesday's meeting, representatives of the LF agreed to withdraw from the fifth basin in the port of Beirut and to remove militiamen from all checkpoints on roads leading into the area under their control.

An LF spokesman described the move as a goodwill gesture to help the authorities negotiate the return to state control of 20 or so docks seized illegally by various militias up and down the Lebanese coast.

Three of the dock basins in Beirut port are already under army control. the port has been at a standstill since inter-Christian fighting broke out on February 14.

A source close to Gen. 'Awn said envoys would be sent to diplomatic missions and shipping companies from Thursday stressing the importance of a return to state control of the docks.

An informed source said the Army had decided to reactivate its marine operations executive, which has lain dormant since its creation in 1986, to co-ordinate action against the illegal ports by the army, police and port authorities.

To Close Beirut Port Dock

NC2302065189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The Lebanese Forces will close down the fifth dock in the port of Beirut today. This step, which is described as a goodwill gesture, falls within the framework of the ongoing negotiations to resolve the situation in the eastern areas.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn will hold negotiations to close down the other illegal ports and make ships use the port of Beirut. It has been learned that Gen 'Awn will send memorandums to diplomatic missions and shipping and insurance companies to the effect that ships will not be allowed to discharge their loads at any illegal port in Lebanon and that any ship that violates this order will be in danger.

It also has been learned that a plan has been drawn up to reactivate the joint marine and air operations room.

To Vacate Checkpoint

NC2302070089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Citing sources of the quadripartite committee, AFP reports that the Lebanese Forces have decided to withdraw from the Al-Barbarah checkpoint. The agency, however, did not say when this step will be implemented.

Attack on Syrian Position in Tripoli Claimed

NC2202200389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its groups attacked a Syrian occupation forces position in the Al-Shati' al-Fidd area, in Al-Mina' at 2000 today. The position received a direct hit, leaving two soldiers of the Syrian units wounded. The organization's statement said: As usual, the Syrian forces subsequently carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in the city in addition to establishing roadblocks. The organization affirmed that it will intensify its military operations until Tripoli is liberated from oppression.

U.S. Congressman Aspin Meets Al-Asad 23 Feb

JN2302125489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1015 today U.S. Congressman Les Aspin in the presence of the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with the situation and developments in the Middle East region.

Meets Foreign Minister

JN2202170789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received here today U.S. Congressman Mr Les Aspin. The U.S. ambassador accredited in Damascus was present.

During the meeting, talks centered on the current situation in the Middle East.

Khaddam Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni, Al-Huss

JN2202132189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1030 today Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; and Dr Salim al-Huss, chairman of the Lebanese Council of Ministers. The talks centered on Lebanon and current developments in the Lebanese situation.

Foreign Minister Receives Bulgarian Official

JN2102204889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this evening Lyubomir Popov, Bulgarian deputy minister of foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal and Bulgarian Ambassador in Damascus Atanas Kolev Samsarev. During the meeting they talked about promoting bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest.

Cabinet Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues

JN2102150089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today.

At the start of the meeting, Al-Zu'bi explained the positive results of the Syrian-YAR talks held in Sanaa and of the Syrian-Jordanian talks held in Amman. The talks were held during recent visits to these two capitals that he made as part of a series of meetings of the joint higher committees of both fraternal states.

The prime minister also explained the steps taken toward satisfying all requirements for this year's agricultural production plan and for following up all aspects of implementing this plan accurately and comprehensively.

The prime minister also reported progress toward increasing oil production and expanding investment programs in this field and referred to work carried out by the government in other fields.

Also during this meeting, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained the positive results of the talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Damascus. He referred to the importance of these talks in enhancing and strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union in all spheres and also with regard to current regional developments, particularly in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Council of Ministers was also briefed on the results of the work of its standing committees on services, economic affairs, and cultural affairs. The council discussed topics on its agenda and approved a number of decisions.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Defense Strategy

JN2302090989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Under the headline "The Established Facts of the Conflict", AL-THAWRAH says: Under any circumstances, not only does Israel pose a present danger to Arabs' but it also poses the only danger to future generations of Arabs. Based on this premise, Syria has always drawn attention to the priority of the conflict with the Zionist enemy. This is because Israel was created to aggravate the situation in the region and not alleviate it, and also to wage continuing aggression and never accept peace. However, Arabs have the power and capability to end the aggression and impose a lasting and just peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria once again emphasizes the central position of the Palestine question and stresses the priority of the Arab-Zionist conflict. It also emphasizes that the option of confrontation requires a comprehensive pan-Arab defense strategy, based on steadfastness and confrontation in order to impose a just and lasting peace. Such a peace will end the aggression and regain our rights.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Leaders Reportedly Agree on Government

BK2302090689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 23 (AFP)—An understanding on a government was reached Thursday between the seven leaders of the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance and a commission set up to break a two-week deadlock, resistance sources said.

Several sources said the seven leaders agreed to the commission's recommendation to name Burhanuddin Rabbani, a relatively moderate Islamic fundamentalist, as head of an interim rebel government in Afghanistan.

An Afghan resistance assembly, called shura, which had not met since Monday amid mounting disagreements, convened here Thursday to hear the 14-member commission's report.

"An understanding has been reached between the commission and the seven leaders," said a resistance leader who asked not to be named.

The seven groups have not been able to agree on the make-up of an interim government for Afghanistan since they convened the assembly two weeks ago.

The commission, headed by field commander Jalaluddin Haqqani, was created Monday and given all the powers to break the deadlock.

Ahmad Shah, a Saudi-backed fundamentalist who had earlier been asked to form a government but who was bitterly opposed by moderates and field commanders, may have been dropped, several sources said.

Mr. Rabbani's main field commander, Ahmad Shah Ma'sud, whose fighters control most of the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul, has sent a message rejecting a government headed by Mr. Shah, sources said.

The resistance said the government would take over in Afghanistan once the mujahidin topple the Moscow-backed government in Kabul, which they say they are confident of doing.

Vote on President, Premier

BK2302103689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 23 (AFP)—Delegates at an Afghan rebel assembly were voting Thursday to elect a president and a prime minister following an understanding reached between the top seven rebel leaders and a commission, resistance sources said.

The 14-member commission headed by the guerrilla commander Jalaluddin Haqqani was set up Monday to break a two week-old deadlock on the allocation of portfolios to the seven Pakistan-based resistance parties.

The assembly, called a shura, which had not met since Monday amid mounting disagreements, convened here Thursday to hear the commission's report.

Resistance sources said the commission had proposed three options to the shura: It could directly elect a president and a prime minister, the seven leaders could choose a unanimous candidate or they could retain the already proposed government under fundamentalist Ahmad Shah.

The commission put forward several names for prime minister, including the moderately fundamentalist Burhanuddin Rabbani, the sources said. The shura opted for elections, they added.

According to the arrangement, shura delegates will vote for the parties, and the group winning the most votes will be given the presidency. The party which wins the second-largest block of votes will get the premiership, the sources said.

The commission will allocate ministries to the remaining parties once the issue of president and prime minister is decided, said the sources, adding that the seven parties would form a coalition government. Balloting will be secret and the results will be known later Thursday, said resistance sources.

The seven groups have not been able to agree on the make-up of an interim government in Afghanistan since they convened the assembly, or shura, two weeks ago.

Ahmad Shah, a Saudi-backed fundamentalist who had earlier been asked to form a government but who was bitterly opposed by moderates and field commanders, may have been dropped, several sources said.

The resistance says the government would take over in Afghanistan after it topples the Soviet-backed administration in Kabul.

Iran-Based Mujahidin Reject Coalition With Kabul

LD2202172989 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Mashhad, Feb. 22, IRNA—Afghan Muslims today appealed to the Iran and Pakistan-based mujahidin groups to work out an accord and give shape to a government representing all struggling forces.

In a statement issued in this holy city, they also spurned the idea of forming a coalition with the Soviet-installed Kabul regime as a "treason against the Islamic cause of Afghan Muslims."

The statement was released at the end of a gathering commemorating the 9th anniversary of the Kabul uprising against Soviet occupation troops which ended in the martyrdom of 3,000 people mainly students and the arrest of 10,000 others.

The dispute between the two groups centres on the number of seats in the proposed shura. It was initially agreed to give the Shi'ite groups 100 of the 500-odd seats, but since then some factions in the Pakistan-based alliance are trying to sabotage the accord, a move which earlier this week led Sibghatullah Mojaddedi to resign in protest from the chairmanship of the 7-party alliance.

Envoy to Japan Lauds Government Forces' Ability
OW2002130989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—The Armed Forces of the Afghan Government has sufficient military ability to defend the country against guerrillas and a majority of the Afghan people support the Kabul government, Afghan Charge d'Affaires in Tokyo Mohammad Na'im told reporters here Monday.

Na'im criticized the fact that Pakistan and Iran are still assisting Afghan guerrilla resistance groups.

Stressing the February 15 completion of the Soviet invasion, Na'im asked Japan and other countries to recognize the Najibullah government and help it carry out national reconstruction.

The Afghan charge d'affaires also commented on the shura (consulative council) meeting of the Afghan guerrilla groups being held in Pakistan, saying that the talks failed to reach a satisfactory conclusion and demonstrated the divisions which exist among the rebel factions.

Na'im claimed that even after the signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, antigovernment guerrillas fired 21,000 rockets in 2,363 attacks, killing 6,954 noncombatants and injuring 12,200 others.

'Abdul Wakil Sends Letter to Armand Hammer
LD2202204889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil has sent the following letter to Dr Armand Hammer, one of the outstanding and well-known personalities in U.S. socioeconomic circles who has travelled to Afghanistan, the region, and other countries many times over the past 2 years, seeking a political solution to the events surrounding Afghanistan:

Dear Friend Dr Armand Hammer:

With profound acknowledgment of your outstanding personality and your long struggle to improve mankind's living standards and restore peace in every corner of the world, and as a friend of Afghanistan, I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

The Afghanistan situation, which is regarded as one of the most complicated and difficult events of the recent decade, now has entered a new stage. As a result of the newly created (?quality), great hopes for peace and national accord in Afghanistan have appeared. However, this hope and optimism are being threatened by warmongering attitudes.

As you are aware, the Geneva talks process, seeking a political solution to the issues surrounding Afghanistan, in which you also played a major and important role, ended with the signing of the Geneva accords. The Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR have observed these accords earnestly and sincerely. The completion of the Soviet military units' withdrawal from Afghanistan on 15 February is clear evidence of this claim. Regrettably, it must be said that the other parties to the accords continue to violate their commitments. This has resulted in the continuation of the war in Afghanistan. In addition, it has created serious obstacles to my endeavors to restore peace and security in Afghanistan and to end the fratricidal war among Afghans.

I also would like to draw your attention to the fact that the process of achieving a political solution through the formation of a broad-based coalition government, with the participation of all political forces [words indistinct] and within the spirit of the Geneva accords and the resolution of the 43d UN General Assembly session—on which we held discussions during our talks in Kabul—also have been confronted with difficulties as a result of the Pakistani authorities' negative and unconstructive position. This prevents the Afghans from determining their own socioeconomic and political system free from foreign interference.

Esteemed Dr Hammer: Please play your role as a major international figure by using your wide influence in the political circles of the United States—one of the world's great, civilized countries—to encourage the White House administration to support the cause of peace in Afghanistan by ending its supply of weapons to the Afghan armed opposition, which only intensifies the fighting and bloodshed in Afghanistan. The continued supply of weapons was recently promised by U.S. President George Bush, contrary to the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords.

We appreciate your economic and humanitarian assistance to our country's needy people, who are threatened with economic blockade at every moment. Moveover, we invite you to play and active role in the reconstruction of our economy through your investments. Such an action would demonstrate another of your endeavors as a peace-loving U.S. personality.

My memories of talks with you in Kabul are unforgettable. It is difficult for me to find the words to express my appreciation to you as a friend of Afghanistan who always has displayed a readiness to assist our country. Your life has proved the idea that personalities can bring changes, and I await the reaffirmation of this principle.

Finally, I want to express my own and the Afghan people's best wishes for your good health and prosperity. Undoubtedly, the memory of your humanitarian and peace-seeking efforts will remain in the memory of every patriotic Afghan and will play a praiseworthy role in the improvement of friendly relations between the Afghan and U.S. people.

[Signed] 'Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives Convoy's Security Units

LD2202222589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0421 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 21, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, received on Feb. 20 the personnel of the units and detachments which are in charge of the security of the convoys carrying foodstuffs and other consumer goods to Kabul city.

President Najibullah talked with the servicemen of the said detachments which were in charge of safeguarding the transfer of 800 civilian vehicles with over 8000 tons of consumer goods on board the Kabul-Hayratan [placename as received] highway.

President Najibullah listened to the suggestions and proposals of these servicemen and appreciated their performances in safeguarding the convoys from being plundered by the armed extremist groups. President Najibullah instructed the concerned authorities that they be rewarded in recognition of their activities.

Reciprocally, the personnel of the said detachments pledged not to allow the armed groups to plunder the public properties.

Najibullah Sends Messages to World Leaders

LD2102083989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 20 [date as received] (BAKHTAR)—President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah, has sent messages to Delhi addressed to Rama Swamy Venkataraman, president of India and Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of that country on Sunday [19 February].

In the messages it is specified that with the completion of the return of the Soviet limited military contingent back home which is manifestation of the honesty of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, achieved under the Geneva accords, would guarantee ensurance of a durable peace in Afghanistan and in the region. [sentence as received]

Unfortunately some powers are attempting that without the observation of all the internationally accepted norms through the escalation of their interferences in the internal affairs of the independent and non-aligned Afghanistan endanger national sovereignty, peace and security in our country. [sentence as received]

While appreciating the role being played by the president of India in the international political arena and constructive and realistic stand of India for the solution of regional conflicts especially situation around Afghanistan it is hoped that the world peaceloving countries persuade Pakistan and the U.S. to observe their commitments before the Geneva accords.

Similar messages addressed to European Community, Juan Carlos, king of Spain; Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe; and Fidel Castro Ruz, first general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba were also sent by the Afghan leader.

[Words indistinct] are made from the said leaders to persuade Pakistan and the U.S. to stop interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Further on Messages

LD2202223189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb., 21, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent a message to Jakarta addressed to His Excellency Suharto, president of Indonesia. The message notes the repeated violations made by Pakistan and the United States of the provisions of the Geneva accords jeopardizing peace in the region. On the other hand, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have honestly honoured their obligations of the accords. President Najibullah in his message asks for the assistance of the Indonesian president in urging Pakistan to honour the provisions of the Geneva agreements for the cause of peace.

A similar message has been sent by President Najibullah to Aden addressed to Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. While touching on the friendly relations between the two countries, the message recalls that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have fulfilled their commitments of the Geneva agreements but the other sides have jeopardized peace by violating the provisions of the accords.

The message asks the Yemeni leadership in mobilising the international public opinion towards securing peace in the country.

President Najibullah has also sent a messag e to Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, king [title as received] o f Kuwait. The message expresses satisfaction of the dev elopment of relations between the two countries and t he efforts made by the Afghan leadership for putting an end to bloodshed in the country. The message des cribes the Geneva agreements as a guarantor of a durabl e peace in the country and in the region but unfortu nately its provisions are trampled underfeet by Pakista n causing the continuation of war in the country. The me ssage calls on the Kuwaiti leadership to mobilize the int ernational public opinion towards securing peace in the c ountry.

The Central Committee of the PDPA have also sent messages to the parties, organisations and political movements of the Arab and Islamic countri es of the region and other countries of the Asian, Afric an, Latin America and Pacific region.

All-sided information is given to them about th e miltary and political situation of the country and t he recent measures taken by the Republic of Afghanista n and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in inde pendently defending the country.

The messages have asked the assistance of the se organizations and movements in urging Pakistan to h onour its commitments to the provisions of the Gene va agreements in an aim to secure peace in the countr y.

Mujahidin Capture Garrison in Takhar Pr ovince
BK2102155789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have ca rried out more successful operations against the Kabul regi me forces in various parts of the country, according to r eports. In several operations along Kabul-Jalalabad high way, the mujahidin destroyed 15 Kabul regime posts.

The mujahidin have captured the garrison hea dquarters along Amu Darya [River] in Dasht-e Qaleh Su bdivision of Takhar Province. About 25 Kabul regime so diers are said to have been killed in this operation.

According to news agencies' reports, the mujah din have also launched a major attack on Khowst ga rrison in Paktia Province. They are also reported to h ave shot down a helicopter gunship in Lowgar Prov nce and another helicopter between Shahr-e Safa and Qalat in Zabol Province.

Explosives Seized in Kabul, Other Cities
LD2002192389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pash to 1530 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] The staff of the Ministry of State Secur ity today discovered a quantity of explosives, weap ons, and ammunition around Kabul city which had be n stored by extremist groups in order to disrupt public c rder and intimidate the people. BAKHTAR's milita y office reports that the Shefa terrorist group belonging to the extremist Gulbuddin band continued its subvervsive activities, and again attempted to soak in blood a number of our compatriots by organizing terror and explosions in Kabul city.

As a result of the timely action by the security forces, the sinister and hostile plan of the criminals was foiled and the following items were seized: 250 kg of explosives; 54 wooden [as heard] mines; 32 bottle-mines; 13 anti-vehicle mines; [words indistinct] 48 mines; 11 containers of assorted fuses; 11 mortar rounds; 6 containers of chemical [words indistinct] fuses and 11 rolls of wire; 3 charge units for explosives and a box of explosives which was primed to explode and had been placed at Dasto Kheyl Hill, Sayd Nur Muhammad Shah Mena in Kabul city Ward No 8. All the members of the Shefa terrorist group, who had brought explosive materials from Pakistan in order to bomb Kabul's crowded areas and had stored them in Ward No 8, were handed over to the law.

A report adds that the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan viewed the items this afternoon.

According to another report, four Chinese Kalashnikovs, six pistols, eight antipersonnel mines and hand grenades, a quantity of poisonous substances, a number of anti-state propaganda leaflets, which had been hidden in the Kabul suburbs by the extremist groups in order to create terror and intimidation, were discovered today and seized by personnel of the Ministry of State Security. The owners of these weapons and substances have also been captured and turned over to the law.

An Armed Forces spokesman reported that during the last 24 hours the Armed Forces units have inflicted shattering retaliatory blows on the warmongering extremist groups. As a result of these operations a number of terrorist and criminal elements were crushed and their hostile attempts to disrupt the security of some regions were neutralized. The BAKHTAR military office reports the following:

Qandahar: While the situation in the city and its suburbs is normal, extremist elements launched heavy weapons fire at security posts and residential areas of Towr Kotal. This was answered by artillery fire from local units and companies. zA ringleader of the extremists group and 6 extremists were crushed and 21 were wounded. Two mortars, two DShK's, seven rocket units, 1 122-mm gun, and a number of light weapons were destroyed.

Parvan: In response to subversive actions by the warmongering bands under the protection of Pakistani militarists in various regions of the province, the Armed Forces units and companies have carried out mopping-up operations in which 10 criminals were crushed and 3 were wounded. A number of their heavy weapons were destroyed.

Paktia: The extremists fired four rockets at Gardeyz city. There was no loss of life. Extremists' fire on various regions of the Khowst Major District killed two security personnel and one civilian.

Herat: In the mopping-up operations and retaliatory action by the security forces in (Adranskan Robat) and (Kaboliha) Districts, 8 warmongers were killed, 11 were wounded, and 15 boxes of ZK-1 ammunition, 6 boxes of hand grenades, and 1,200 rounds of DShK ammunition were seized.

Kabul: In accordance with Kabul garrison command's plan, a number of allocated regions of Kabul city wards were mopped up on 20 February. Some 31 Kalashnikovs, 2 hand grenades, and 2 kg of explosive substances were seized, and 39 people who belonged to secret organizations of the extremist groups and who intended to carry out terrorist and disruptive actions in Kabul city were captured.

Also on 20 February artillery attacks and air strikes were carried out at the meeting points of extremist bands in Shakar Darreh and Kuh-e Safi Districts, which prevented any subversive operation or long-range attack. In the operations three extremists were killed, and one arms cache, one mortar, and two DShK were destroyed.

Kabul Radio Details Recent Security Operations

More Explosives Seized in Kabul

LD2102183489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] In continuation of their clearing up operations in the periphery of the city of Kabul today security forces detected and seized an supply of explosives and ammunition.

The BIA military section reports that 33 kgs of plastic explosives, 10 wooden handled grenades [as heard], 1 surface-to-surface rocket igniter, 2 antivehicle mines, and 5 Pakistani (?parachute mines) belonging to the (Shefa) group associated with Gulbuddin's extremist group, were seized in the area of (Tapa-e Dosto Kheyl) in Ward No 8 of Kabul, where they were stockpiled to explode in crowded areas of the city of Kabul.

According to another report, 40 kg of (?terotil type) explosives, 7 (?magnetic mines) a number of (?time pencils), and anti-government papers and literature hidden in the periphery of Kabul by extremist groups were detected today and seized with the peoples' collaboration. The perpetrators were captured and have been handed over to the legal authorities. Similarly, as many as 30 boxes of ZG-1 ammunition, 20 boxes of DShK ammunition, 51 machinegun magazines and link belts, and 27,340 rounds of assorted ammunition were seized as a result of a security forces' mopping up operation in the area of (Sarasiab) and (Tagi-e Lalander).

21 Feb Operations

LD2102195389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] An authoritative source in the Armed Forces reports that the situation in most provinces is normal. Units of the Armed Forces are holding their previous positions. Extremist groups carried out subversive activities in some areas. As a result of fire returned by the Armed Forces, a number of extremists were crushed and a number of their positions and (?arms connecting trenches) were destroyed. The BIA reports the military situation as follows:

Kabul: Security forces today conducted mopping up operations in some parts of the city. As a result, 23 people associated with armed extremists groups were captured and 2 weapons, 200 kg of explosives, 3 vehicles, 1 typewriter, and a number of propaganda treatises and literature were seized by the country's security forces.

Khowst: Extremist groups connected with Pakistani military circles fired on the towns of Khowst, Towr Ghar, Nader Shah Kowt, and Gorbaz, and security forces responded by opening fire. One resident was martyred and one security officer was injured. As a result of the Armed Forces' return fire, many trenches belonging to the extremist and terrorist elements were destroyed. After the loss of their arms and ammunition, the extremists were forced to retreat.

Qandahar: As many as 12 extremists were crushed and 7 light weapons, 1 rocket launcher, 1 82-mm gun, and many enemy trenches and fortifications were destroyed. Three vehicles loaded with ammunition were set ablaze, and 23 surface-to-surface rockets, 80 antipersonnel mines, 7 rocket launchers, and 2,000 Kalashnikov cartridges were seized by the security forces.

Parvan: As many as nine people associated with Gulbuddin's extremist group were detained in the Bagram District area.

The situation is normal in the rest of the country.

Another source in the Armed Forces reports that in the past 24 hours 213 Afghan youths have joined the Armed Forces.

22 Feb Military Situation

LD2202184489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The satanic conspiracy of the warmongering extremists, in disrupting peace and security in the area of Khowst Major District, was foiled yesterday evening by Armed Forces units based in the district.

The BIA military section reports that a number of extremists backed by armored vehicles and heavy arms and assisted by Pakistani militia attacked the security

posts at Towr Ghar at 0700 yesterday morning [21 February], and attempted to advance the offensive in the direction of the Gorbaz Subdistrict and (Omara Khan) village. The extremists began a surface-to-surface rocket attack on the residential area of Khowst at the same time, firing about 500 rockets. As a result of this criminal and inhumane act, two mosques and a number of dwellings were either damaged or destroyed.

The extremists' subversive operation, mobilized and administered by Pakistani advisers, was immediately checked, and the extremists' forces were struck with crushing blows. As a result of the returned blows by the Armed Forces, 50 warmongering extremist elements were killed and 80 wounded. During the operation a 30-man group headed by (?Sa'ad Khan) was captured. Two Punjabis were also captured. Three armoured vehicles, three rocket missile sets, one 75-mm gun, one recoilless gun, and an amount of enemy light weapons were destroyed. The report adds that the satanic conspiracy of the extremists has been totally aborted. During the operation, four officers were martyred and nine received injuries.

The situation in the Khowst area is normal. The Armed Forces units based in Khowst enjoy high combat preparedness and the overall support of the people of the area, and are always ready to defend resolutely their independence and territorial integrity and to safeguard peace and security in the district.

A source in the Armed Forces reports that as a result of random clearing up operations in some areas, Pakistani military backed extremists have been crushed. A number of people who have learned the existing realites of the country have joined the people's sovereignty and have pledged to offer any type of sacrifice for the service of the country and the people.

The BIA military section, reports on the military situation in the country over the past 24 hours.

Qandahar: As a result of a reciprocal operation carried out in response to fire by the extremist groups, 16 criminals were killed and 5 wounded. Their 16 trenches were destroyed, and 21 shells for recoilless gun were captured.

Herat: Elements associated with reactionary and warmonger circles again revealed their filthy faces by organizing an explosion in the civil hospital at Herat. They showed their hostility toward our suffering people—children, women, men, and the sick and crippled. As a result of the incident, six patients and employees of the hospital were injured, and a section of the hospital was damaged.

As a result of returned fire from the Armed Forces a number of the criminals were either crushed or injured, and their one recoilless gun and some heavy weapons were destroyed.

According to another report, a 100-man group that realized the futility of its armed activities against the people and national sovereignty joined with their arms Brigade No 551, aware of their historic responsibility and national mission.

Our brave youths continue to join the ranks of the Armed Forces—317 people were mobilized in related units over the past 24 hours.

Notes Nos 219, 220 Submitted to UN Mission

LD1802100389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 17, BAKHTAR—The 219th and 220th notices of Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on the violations by Pakistan of Paragraph Third of the first document of Geneva agreements was submitted to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] Headquarters in Kabul on Feb. 16.

The notice explained the flagrant and consistent violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan especially the handing over of the lethal weapons to war-mongering extremists which cause damage and destruction of residential areas. Now that the complete return of the Soviet limited military contingent from Afghanistan has taken place the flagrant violations of the provisions of Geneva agreements by Pakistan and the United States are yet continuing, which is causing bloodshed and threatening peace.

The notice urged the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and to devote serious attention towards the realisation of the provisions of Geneva agreements by the concerned parties.

Bangladesh

Party Rally Demands Hanging of Author Rushdie

BK1702151289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 17 (AFP)—Bangladesh's right-wing Jamiyat-i Islami Party held a rally here Friday demanding that the British author Salman Rushdie be hanged because of his latest novel "The Satanic Verses." About 500 Jamiyat activists marched downtown carrying placards reading "We want Rushdie hanged," eye-witnesses said.

The activists, who were closely followed by police on lorries, later held a brief rally which was addressed by a Jamiyat leader Quader Mollah, they said. Mr. Mollah said Mr. Rushdie's book was objectionable and blasphemous and that it had injured the religious sentiments of a billion Moslems worldwide. He demanded a complete ban of the book and urged Moslems to boycott all Viking-Penguin publications unless they withdraw the controversial novel.

The book has been officially banned in Bangladesh, where 86 per cent of the 110 million people are Moslems. Pakistan and India as well as several other countries. The Jamiyat leader also said that the Bangladesh Government should ask the British authorities to take criminal action against Mr. Rushdie for blasphemy against the holy Prophet Muhammad.

Earlier, several hundred Moslem fundamentalists gathered outside Dhaka's Baitul Mukarram Mosque after prayers and shouted anti-Rushdie slogans. They demanded that Mr. Rushdie be executed, an appeal first made Tuesday by Iranian spritual leader Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The protesters carried a banner which read "Hang Satan Rushdie" and said that Bangladesh, like Iran, should send out death squads to carry out Mr. Rushdie's execution. Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i said in Tehran on Friday that Mr. Rushdie might be pardoned if he apologised for his latest novel.

Mr. Rushdie, a Briton who was born to a Moslem family in India, has since cancelled a U.S. promotional tour of his novel that he was to begin Friday and is under police guard at an undisclosed location in Britain.

India

Reportage on Visit by Turkey's President Evren

Arrives for 5-Day Visit

BK2202091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The Turkish president, Mr Kenan Evren, arrived in New Delhi today on a 5-day state visit. He was given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashatrapathy Bhavan [President's House] by the president, the prime minister, and his cabinet colleagues. Mr Evren, the first Turkish president to visit India, is accompanied by a high-level delegation.

In a statement after his arrival, the Turkish leader said his country has a political will to strengthen cooperation with India in a balanced and mutually beneficial manner.

During his stay, President Evren will have wide-ranging discussions with the Indian leadership, including two rounds of talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He will also visit Agra and Bangalore before leaving for Ankara on Sunday.

Meets With Venkataraman

BK2202130489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The visiting Turkish president, Mr Kenan Evren, called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, in New Delhi today. The two leaders exchanged views on several bilateral and international matters. The vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, also called on the visiting dignitary.

Earlier, on his arrival, Mr Evren was given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapathy Bhavan [President's house] by the president, the prime minister, and his cabinet colleagues. The Turkish president later visited Rajghat, Shantivan and Shaktisthal to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi.

Holds Talks With Gandhi

BK2202160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Excerpt] India and Turkey have expressed their keenness to increase economic cooperation, particularly in trade and commerce. The two sides also felt that there has been much progress in their bilateral relations. These views were expressed at the meeting between the visiting Turkish president, Mr Kenan Evren, and the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today.

An official spokesman told newsmen that the Turkish president briefed the prime minister on his recent visit to Pakistan. He said Pakistan is keen to improve relations with India. He also felt that Mr Gandhi's visit to that country had a positive impact. Mr Gandhi shared Mr Evren's assessment and said after a long time there is a distinct opportunity to improve relations with Pakistan.

The visiting president clarified that the economic cooperation organization of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey is purely an economic framework to better their economic relations.

The two sides also discussed the situation in Afghanistan and hoped that there will be a peaceful solution and an end to the conflict soon. Mr Gandhi emphasized that the Geneva accords have to be adhered to and there should be no interference from outside. [Passage omitted]

Makes Banquet Speeches

BK2302042789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] India and Turkey have hailed the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan as a positive development. The two countries expressed the hope that an Afghan government capable of realizing the aspirations of its people would be formed without any external interference. Speaking at a banquet in honor of the Turkish president, Mr Kenan Evren, last night in New Delhi, the president, Mr Venkataraman, said it will be a terrible tragedy if this positive development is replaced by a war between Afghans and Afghans. He called for an end to all foreign interference in Afghanistan and hoped all concerned will join in finding an acceptable and workable solution based on the decisions of its people.

President Venkataraman praised Turkey's constructive role during the 8 years of Iran-Iraq war. Mr Venkataran said Turkey's position on the Palestinian question has been equally constructive.

Speaking about bilateral relations, Mr Venkataraman said the 1951 treaty of peace and friendship between the two countries has strengthened bilateral cooperation. The trade between the two countries during the 4 years has quadrupled and there is still further scope to increase it. Both the countries called upon the international community to carry forward the ongoing process of nuclear disarmament to establish global peace. Mr Venkataraman said improved East-West relations have provided opportunities for greater cooperation in the area of arms control and the focus should now be shifted to economic dimensions.

Referring to the time-bound action plan on disarmament tabled by India at the United Nations last year, he expressed the hope that it will gather increasing support internationally, making the world free of nuclear weapons.

In his speech, Mr Evren expressed the hope that the reconstruction of Afghanistan will be achieved through international cooperation and solidarity. He said the climate of peace and security will be provided for the return of refugees to their homeland.

The visiting president welcomed the positive contacts and developments that have taken place in recent times in the bilateral relations of India with China and Pakistan.

Speaking about Cyprus, Mr Evren appealed to all the countries interested in the Cyprus question to encourage the Turkish and Greek Cypriots to resolve their differences at the negotiating table.

Letters Exchanged Following Gandhi PRC Visit

BK2202091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was officially told today that the prime ministers of India and China have exchanged letters following Mr Gandhi's visit to Beijing. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.K. Tiwari, said in written reply that the letters emphasized the desire of the two countries to make joint efforts for sustained improvement of relations on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence. He said it has been agreed by the two countries that the boundary question should be settled through peaceful and friendly consultations.

Parliament Debates Bhopal Tragedy Compensation

BK2202165089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The issue of payment of compensation to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy came in for scrutiny in both the houses of Parliament today. The ruling party members hailed the Supreme Court judgment on the settlement between the government and the Union Carbide Corporation and said it is based purely on human considerations. The judgment will ensure that relief reaches the victims expeditiously. The opposition members on the other hand charged the government with betraying the interests of the gas victims and alleged that the government has surrendered to the multinational company. The issue came up through a special discussion in the Lok Sabha raised by Prof Madhu Dandavate, Janata, and Mr C. Janga Reddy, BJP.

The short duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha was raised by Mr Atal Behari Bajpai, BJP. Earlier, during the zero hour in the Lok Sabha almost the entire opposition staged a walked out, when the speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, disallowed a number of adjournment motions on the subject.

Initiating the discussion in the Lok Sabha, Mr Dandavate alleged that it was an out-of-court settlement between the government and the Union Carbide Corporation sanctified by the Supreme Court. He also alleged that the judgment denigrates the authority of Parliament. Mr Atal Behari Bajpai, who intiated the discussion in the Rajya Sabha, urged the Supreme Court to reconsider its judgment. He suggested that the amount of compensation of $470 million arrived at should be treated as interim payment pending a final settlement.

Rebutting the opposition charge that it is the betrayal of the interest of the victims, the ruling party members contended that the time bound settlement is the best that could be arrived at under the given circumstances. The opposition members were critical of the government for accepting the settlement at $470 million, whereas, they said, the original claim was for $3,300 million. Members of the treasury benches reminded the opposition that the original claim was prepared with the anticipation that the case would take at least 20 years to be settled in the court.

The opposition members also wanted to know why the earlier offer from the Union Carbide of 300 million was rejected 4 years ago, as with interest it would have amounted to $470 million as of today. Several ruling party members argued that the opposition contention is not correct. They said the offer of $300 million was on installments to be paid over a period between 10 to 30 years. A suggestion was made in both the houses to set up a suitable machinery to ensure that the amount of compensation reaches the right people at the earliest. Another suggestion from a ruling party member was that a 5-year action plan for the rehabilitation of the victims prepared the Madhya Pradesh government should be accepted by the center.

During the discussion, which remained inconclusive in both the houses, the ruling party members urged the opposition not to politicize this human tragedy and cooperate with the government to ensure that the relief reaches the victims and they are rehabilitated.

Victims Stage Protest

BK2102162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Some victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy today staged a dharna [sit in] outside the Supreme Court in New Delhi. They were demanding revocation of court's judgment allowing $470 million compensation to them by the Union Carbide, which the victims felt was inadequate.

Spokesman on Stand Against Division of Assam

BK2202162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The center has reiterated its stand against the division of Assam, as demanded by the Bodo students agitators and also against use of violence by any section of the people. Referring to some reports in a section of the press, a spokesman of the Home Ministry said in New Delhi today that the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, had categorically stated the center's stand at the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his ministry recently. Mr Buta Singh had told the meeting that the center is against demands of separate state and this stand equally applies to Assam. The spokesman pointed out that the home minister had also repeated the center's assurance to the Assam government of providing all assistance in solving the genuine problems faced by the state.

Rajasthan Bans Strike in 'Essential Services'

BK2202132089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The Rajasthan government has declared all services under the State Electricity Board and the State Road Transport Corporation as essential services. According to a notification issued today, the strike in these services have been banned with immediate effect under the State Essential Services Maintenance Act.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Kashmir Situation

BK2302090589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today expressed the center's serious concern over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir created by the secessionist and fundamentalist forces. Intervening during question hour in the Rajya Sabha today, he said the government is aware that these elements are getting support from outside. He said there have been some visible signs of improvement after Ms Benazir Bhutto came to power, but the situation has not changed much. Mr Buta Singh said that the government is fully seized of the matter. He said an action plan has been drawn up to meet the situation. The home minister appealed to all secular forces to stand up against these elements.

Earlier, in a reply to the main question, the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, said the state government has been assured of all assistance to meet the situation.

Iran

Khomeyni Issues Message to Religious Authorities

LD2202135189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the great leader and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], has issued a very important message addressed to the religious authorities throughout the country, and to the teachers and students of religious seminaries, as well as Friday prayer leaders. In that message the imam of ummah paid considerable tribute to the martyrs from the clergy and religious seminaries. He said:

[Announcer-read throughout] Greetings to those entrusted with divine inspiration, and to the mission of those martyred custodians who have carried the pillars of the pride and honor of Islam on their red-blooded shoulders of promise. Greetings to the eternally present epic-makers of the clergy, who have inscribed their practical and theoretical mission with the breath of martyrdom and the ink of blood. Greetings to those who forged ahead until discovering divine truth and who became established witnesses for their nation and community. The truth of their tradition was testified to by their blood and their mutilated bodies.

Imam Khomeyni then described the services of the religious seminaries and the true clergy of Islam during the last 1,000 years, saying: There is no doubt that the religious seminaries and the committed clergy, in the course of history of Islam and Shi'ism, have supplied the most important base for Islam in the face of onslaughts, distortions, and perversity. Had the beloved clergy not been there, it is unclear what kind of science would be fed today to the masses as the science of the Koran, Islam, and the prophet's family. The collation and safeguarding of the Koranic sciences and the esteemed prophet's tradition and writings and those of the esteemed imam, and the compiling of such material under difficult conditions in which the kings and tyrants used all their means to eradicate such material has not been an easy task. Praise be to God, today we see the result of those efforts through valuable books such as the "Arba'eh" and other books written by researchers and authors on diverse subjects such as the fundamentals of jurisprudence and philosophy, modern mathematics, the methodology of discourse, biographies of the pious, the interpretation of literature and mysticism, and various other branches of science.

The imam of ummah said that the struggles of the clergy have not merely taken place in the arena of cultural and scientific research. He said: In any divine and popular revolution the Islamic religious authorities have been pioneers on whose foreheads blood and martyrdom have been inscribed. What Islamic popular revolution can you

find in what seminaries and what clergy have not pioneered the cult of martyrdom? We praise God that from the walls of Fayzieyeh Seminary to the shah regime's solitary confinement prison cells, and from the streets to the altar of the Friday prayers, from their places of work and service to the frontlines of war, the blood of the martyrs of the clergy has reddened the horizon of the rule of the jurisconsults.

At the proud conclusion to the imposed war, too, the number of martyrs from religious seminaries and their disabled and missing in action was higher than from other strata. More than 2,500 seminary students throughout Iran were martyred during the imposed war.

Imam Khomeyni said: The true clergy of Islam have never bowed to the capitalists, money-worshippers, and lords [khavanin]. They have always saved themselves from this honor. It is grossly unfair for anyone to say that the hands of the true clergy, supporting pure Muhammadan Islam, are eating out of the same bowl as the capitalists. God will not forgive those who think in this way and propagate this idea. The committed clergy is thirsty for the blood of the parasitic capitalists, have never reconciled with them, and will never do so. In propagating spiritual leadership and rule of the juriconsults there has been neither the power of the sword nor the capital of money-worshippers and the wealthy. Instead it has been the clergy's own art, honesty, and commitment which has made people choose them.

The imam of ummah emphasized that if someone thinks that colonialism is not trying to deny the clergy—with its degree of magnimity and honor—he is nonsensical. He said: The publication of the book "Satanic Verses" was a calculated move aimed at rooting out religion and piety, particularly Islam and its clergy. If the world-devourers could, they certainly would have burned the roots and the name of spiritual leadership of Islam. But God has always guarded this sacred torch; and God willing, he will continue to do so. This depends on us identifying the deviousness, ploys, and tricks of the world-devourers.

The imam then made the point that accounting for the virtues of the clergy does not mean that we should defend all the clergy. In that connection he said: There are some people in the religious seminaries who are active against the revolution and the pure Muhammadan Islam. Today there are some people pretending piety who are striking very heavy blows to the roots of religion, the revolution, and the system, as though they had no other duty. The danger of the tendency toward stagnation from those stupid pseudo-pious persons in the seminaries should not be underestimated. The dear seminary students must not for one moment forget about the existence of these deceptive snakes with colorful skins. These are the propagators of U.S. Islam and they are the enemies of God's prophet. Should not the unity of the dear seminary students be consolidated in the face of these vipers?

The imam of ummah said arrogance has chosen two ways to extend its influence in order to harm the clergy and religious seminaries. He added: Certainly, the struggling clergy have been hurt more from within. Do not think that the slander of irreligiousity has been imposed on the clergy only by others. Never! The blows of the uninformed clergy—or those who are informed but dependent—has been much more effective than those delivered by others, and it will be so in future. The blood which has poured out of your old father's heart [Khomeyni refers to himself] due to the blows from that quarter has never equalled his suffering at the hands of others.

Imam Khomeyni described the effects of the influence of the foreigners in seminaries and the propagation of the idea of the separation of religion from politics, saying: One of the issues that must be clarified for the young seminary students is this issue of how it came to pass during the reign of the uninformed clergy and the simple-minded ignorants over the seminaries that a group of people took the initiative and staked their dignity and their lives to salvage Islam and the clergy. The situation was nothing like today. Anyone who did not believe in struggle 100 percent would easily flee the arena under the pressure and the threats of the pseudo-pious. The propagation of the notion that "the shah is the shadow of God," or that one could not stand up to guns and tanks with mere flesh and blood—and worst of all the deviant slogan stating that government is void before the appearance of the hidden imam—and thousands of other ploys, constituted great and unbearable problems which could not be countered through admonitions or a negative style of struggle. The only way available was struggle through blood; and God paved the way for such a course.

The imam of ummah said: On 5 June 1963 there was no fighting against the bullets and guns of the shah. If there had been, then the struggle would have been easy. What we did experience in addition were the bulletins which came from inside our own front through deception and pseudo-piety. We felt the bullet of two-faced people's sharp tongues. They hurt a thousand times more than lead bullets. The overt and covert elements of the United States and the shah resorted to rumors and slanders. They even accused those who led the movement of being people who do not perform the Muslim prayers [tarek al-salat], of being communists, or agents of England. Really, the pure clergy just kept weeping blood in their solitude and captivity.

Stressing that the file on sanctimonious thinking has not yet been closed, the imam of ummah said: The young students of theology must know that the file on the thought of this group is still open and that only the forms of sanctimoniousness and faith-peddling have changed. Those who were defeated yesterday have today become the peddlers of politics. Those who did not allow themselves to enter into political affairs have now become supporters of those who went so far as to overthrow the regime and stage coups.

The Qom and Tabriz disturbances are but one example we can discuss. Those sanctimonious theologians who before the revolution believed that religion must be separate from politics and who used to submit to the court [of the shah] have suddenly become pious and hurl accusations of being Wahhabis [Saudis]—and even worse that that—at the dear and honorable theologians who endured so much suffering, exile, and destitution for Islam. They say that the responsibile authorities of the regime have become communists. Previously, the adherents of Hojjatiyeh [a Shi'ite sect] prohibited struggle. In the thick of the struggle they did all they could to break the glorious strike of the middle of Sha'ban [the 15th of the month of Sha'ban is the birthday anniversary of the Mahdi among Shi'ites; reference is to a strike on one such occasion during the reign of the shah] in the interest of the shah. Today they are even more revolutionary than the revolutionaries.

Imam Khomeyni said: Really, who are those who accuse us of being American, Russian, or belonging to the eclectics [elteghati], or who accuse us of sanctioning what is prohibited [under Islamic law], or accuse us of killing pregnant women, sanctioning gambling and music? Are they apostates or stupid and befuddled sanctimonious individuals? Who are those who give signals and express doubts about the legitimacy of the regime? Are they the common people or the elite? Elites belonging to what group? Do they belong to the pseudo- turbaned [meaning clerics] or others? All this results from the foreigners' penetration into the seminaries and their culture.

Stressing the sensitive and complex nature of confronting such assumptions and thoughts, the imam of ummah said: The first religious and divine duty is for the seminarians to maintain the unity and solidarity of the revolutionary clerics and seminary students. Otherwise, a dark night lies before us and whirlwinds and waves will separate us. Today there is no religious and logical reason to allow the differences in tastes, differences in assumptions, and even weakness in management to disrupt the sense of belonging and unity between the seminary students and the committed 'ulema. It is possible for anybody to be critical in the sphere of his own ideology concerning the performance, management, and tastes of others or of the responsible authorities. But the tone and interpretations must not divert the thought of society and posterity from recognizing the real enemies and the superpowers—who are responsible for all the difficulties and shortages—to secondary issues lest, God forbid, all the weaknesses and problems would be attributed to the managers and the responsible authorities. Such an act is totally unfair.

Rejecting the viewpoints of those who say the revolution has not been successful in its principles and policies, Imam Khomeyni said: Today I feel that it was not clear whether the most powerful men could have achieved more than what the existing individuals have achieved, given the many conspiracies, animosities and warmongering which have been in the world against the Islamic revolution. In a fair analysis of the events of the revolution, especially the events of the 10 years after the victory, I must say that the Islamic revolution of Iran has been successful in reaching most of its targets and in most fields. With the support of Almighty God, we have not been defeated or conquered in any field. Even in the war, the victory had gone to our nation. The enemies have achieved nothing by imposing so much devastation.

The commander in chief of the forces referred to the values that have been created during the 8 years of the sacred defense. He then said: How shortsighted are those who think that, because at the front we did not attain the ultimate goal, therefore the martyrdom, self-sacrifice, and courage are all wasted. The point is that the demands of sound Islam in Africa stems from our 8-year war. The people's interest in learning about Islam in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa—that is, all over the world—stems from our 8-year war.

I officially apologize to the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, spouses, and children of the martyrs and the self-sacrificing devotees because of the erroneous analysis these days. I beseech God to accept me alongside the martyrs of the imposed war. We do not repent, nor are we sorry for a moment for our performance in the war.

The imam of ummah said: We must not act in the wrong way by rejecting our views and the expression of our beliefs in order to satisfy a handful of liberal traitors, in the event the dear hezbollahis feel that the Islamic Republic is deviating from its principled positions.

Does it not lead to the instability of the regime? mDoes it not lead to the loss of the people's confidence if we say in our analysis that the IRI has no achievements and that it has been unsuccessful?

Stating that if everybody is to be bound to the result of his endeavors, and that the prophets and the infallible should not have gone farther than the capability of their endeavors, Imam Khomeyni said: With the blessing of Almighty God, our nation has succeeded in achieving victory in most of the areas about which it has issued slogans. We have seen the slogan on the shah's downfall realized. We have honored the slogan "freedom and independence" through our actions. We witnessed the success of the slogan "Death to America" in the acts of our heroic Muslim youth in capturing the U.S. nest of corruption and espionage. We have implemented all our slogans with action.

Stressing the damage which the line of the liberals [khat-e liberalha] inflicted on the country at the start of the revolution, the imam of ummah said: Today, 10 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, I admit, as I have done in the past, that some of the decisions in the early stage of the revolution in entrusting positions and important affairs to those who did not have pure and real faith in the pure Muhamadan Islam were mistakes—mistakes whose bitterness and consequences we cannot

easily remove. Today we have no regret that they are no longer on our side because they never were on our side. The revolution owes no debt to any group. We are still suffering the consequences of the great confidence that we had in these groups and in the liberals.

Stressing the fact that the country has opened its arms to those who return but not at the price of their making claims on the revolution, Imam Khomeyni said: We must not—under the influence of undue mercy to the enemies of God and opponents of the regime and the wrong-doers—engage in such things that God's edicts and divine punishments [hudud] may be questioned. Not only do I not believe some of these cases would be in the interests of the country, but in fact I believe the enemies would profit by them. I declare explicitly to those who have access to radio, television, and the press—who may say what others speak—that as long as I am around I shall not allow the government to fall into the hands of the liberals [liberal-ha]. So long as I live I shall not allow the hypocrites to destroy the Islam of the people who have no refuge. As long as I live, I shall not deviate from the principles of neither East nor West. So long as I live, I shall cut off the hands of the agents of the United States and the Soviet Union in all fields.

On the vast and unprecedented participation of the people in the scene of revolution, especially the 11 February marches this year, the imam of ummah said: I am fully confident that in principle all the people, as before, support the regime and their Islamic revolution. In addition to the hundreds of times when they have declared their preparedness, this year too they have demonstrated to the world the reality of their full preparedness. They really amazed the enemies of the revolution by showing how far they are ready for self-sacrifice.

I feel ashamed and far too small to express my appreciation of them or to talk about them. God shall reward so much self-sacrifice and submission.

While praising the teachers of Qom Seminary, Imam Khomeyni called upon the revolutionary religious students and the seminary teachers to unite, and he graciously said: God forbid, if these people were to be vanquished, what other force would replace them? Would the agents of arrogance not bring the pseudo-clergy, which it has trained up to the level of imitators, to take charge of the seminaries? Can those who during the tumult of 15 years of struggle before the revolution and the 10 years of backbreaking post-revolution events have never bothered about the struggle and have never worried about the war and the running of the country, and have sat around to debate religious matters or to teach, become backers of the Islamic revolution in the future?

While stressing the point that discord is destructive in whatever form, Imam Khomeyni graciously said: For the sake of maintaining a balance among various factions, I have always issued bitter and sweet instructions, for I consider them all to be my dear ones and children. Of course, I have never worried about the sharp debates, similar to the debates among religious students, on the principles of jurisprudence. However, I am worried about the confrontation and discord among the factions which believe in the revolution, lest it should lead to the strengthening of the comfort-seeking and carefree faction, which does nothing but nag and complain. The association of seminary teachers should consider the dear revolutionary, hardworking, (?toiling), and front-serving religious students as their own children. They should even hold sessions with them. In return the revolutionary religious students should respect the dear teachers who support the revolution.

Imam Khomeyni described the fact that the people of Iran have always been loyal to the clergy, graciously saying: The honest people of Iran must pay attention to the fact that most of the propaganda against the clergy is aimed at destroying the revolution's clergy. The servants of Satan go to the people in times of hardship and crisis and say that it is the clergy that is responsible for the hardship and inadequacies, but they accuse not the clergymen who are irresponsible and unfamiliar with pain but the clergy who have always led everyone else in facing danger. I testify with absolute certainty that if people other than the clergy had pioneered the revolutionary movement and the making of decisions, today we would have nothing but shame, despondency, and embarassment in the face of the U.S. and the world-devourers.

On the method of research in the religious seminaries, the imam of ummah said: I believe in orthodoxy in jurisprudence, and the Javaheri interpretation; I do not condone deviations from that. Interpretation [ijtehad] is correct through that method. But this does not mean that Islamic jurisprudence is not dynamic. Time and place are two determining factors in interpretation.

On the description of conditions and prerequisites of an authoratative interpreter [mujtahed] Imam Khomeyni graciously said: Familiarity with the ways of confronting the ploys and tricks of the culture reigning over the world, possession of economic insight, being informed about the method to encounter the economic system dominating the world, awareness of policies, and even of politicians and their formulas—these are some of the characteristics of a mujtahed, who must possess the intelligence and shrewdness necessary for managing and safeguarding a great Islamic—or even a non-Islamic—society.

The imam of ummah mentioned the fact that in the view of a real mujtahed government is the practical philosophy for all aspects of human life, and that arrogance is frightened of this very issue.

The imam of ummah said: Arrogance is afraid that jurisprudence and theological qualification [ejtehad] may acquire subjective and practical application. Indeed, why is it that following the declaration of a religious and Islamic edict, on which all the 'ulema hold

a consensus against a mercenary of the outsiders, the world-devourers are so angry? Why have the heads of infidelity and the Common Market and the like embarked on futile efforts?

There is no other reason than that they regard Islam today as a fertile, dynamic, and epic-making school. They have become worried because the sphere of their mischief has been curtailed and their mercenaries can no longer, as before, write with confidence against the sanctities.

On the meeting of the heads of the Common Market, Imam Khomeyni said: Western arrogance has perhaps imagined that we will give up implementing the instruction of the great God as soon as they mention the name of the Common Market and economic principle. We learn of the Western world's grudge against the Islamic world and Islamic theology by hearing these points. The issue for them is not the defense of an individual; for them the issue is to support an anti-Islamic and unscrupulous current.

In another part of his message, the imam of ummah said: To those who still continue to threaten that we must embark on revising our politics, principles, and diplomacy and that we must admit our mistakes and that we must not repeat our previous mistakes, to those who still believe that extremist slogans or war will cause the West and the East to look pessimistically at us, and who believe that ultimately all this has led to this country's isolation, to those who believe that if we act in a pragmatic way they will humanely reciprocate with us and will mutually respect the nations, Islam, and the Muslims, to them this is an example. God wanted that the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" to be published now so that the world of conceit, arrogance, and barbarism would show its true face in its long-held enmity toward Islam. God wanted it to happen in this way so that we would no longer think simplistically.

Stressing that the issue of Salman Rushdi was not an individual issue but that it was the confrontation of arrogance with Islam, Imam Khomeyni said: The clergy and the dear hezbollah and the respected families of the martyrs must be on guard not to allow the blood of their dear ones to be wasted through these writings and wrong thoughts.

My concern is that today's analysts will occupy the seat of judgement 10 years from now and then say that one must see whether the Islamic decree and the verdict of execution for Salman Rushdie was in accordance with diplomatic regulations or not. They might conclude that because the issuance of God's decree has had repercussions and the EEC and the Western countries have taken positions against us, that therefore we must not act in an immature way and must leave the initators of the insult alone.

Reiterates Sentence on Rushdie

LD2202143589 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni today categorically denied that Iran had failed in its policies and had gained nothing since the culination of the revolution ten years ago.

"Wouldn't this (such an idea) result in the (ruling) system's instability and a lack of confidence by the people?" he asked in a message issued today.

"When expressing our opinions and views we should not act wrongly just to satisfy several sold-out liberals, lest the dear hezbollah (advocates of God's party) should feel the Islamic Republic is retreating from its principal stands," he advised Iranian officials.

The imam's message today was an address to members of the ulema and leaders of Friday prayers throughout the country. In his message Imam Khomeyni also reiterated that the British author Salman Rushdie must get death sentence for slandering Muslims' sanctities.

"The Iranian people succeeded in tulfilling most of their slogans. We practically observed the slogan of the shah's fall, we trimmed with our action the slogan of freedom and independence, we watched the slogan of 'death to America' in the action of enthusiastic, heroic, and Muslim youths when capturing America's den of corruption and espionage. We have accomplished all our slogans."

On the 'damage' inflicted on the Islamic state by liberals, Imam Khomeyni said, "today, ten years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, I acknowledge as I have done so before, that certain decisions at the beginning of the revolution, to delegate some positions and important affairs to a group who did not have firm belief in genuine Islam of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), was a mistake whose bitter consequences would not fade away so easily.

"Today we do not regret at all that they (liberals) are not beside us because they really were not from the outset. The revolution is not in debt to any group and we are still bearing the consequences of our great confidence in (these) groups and liberals."

Majlis Deputies Support Message

LD2202181389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Following the issuance of parts of the imam of the ummah's important message, the Majlis deputies have brought out a statement. Referring to the insults directed at the sacred dignity of the prophet of Islam in the perverted book, "The Satanic Verses," the statement stressed: The leaders and ulema of Islamic countries must make the Muslim nations aware of the depth of this crime. In the face of this satanic attack, they should

create a front in a manly manner. This statement emphasized: The officials in charge of these countries' foreign policies, as well as all officials and foundations, must take a very firm, strong stand with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, against this blatant violation in the area of our spiritual beliefs and ideology. They should take this stand in an aggressive, rather than reactive manner. They should not fear the enemy's unfounded authoritative arrogance. They should deliver the Imam's message to foreign diplomatic establishments as the last word on the subject.

This letter places emphasis on avoiding of any kind of friendship with the Great Satan, stating: The great and self-sacrificing nation of Iran—which safeguarded with its blood, bone, lives and (?possessions), the system of the Islamic republic, in obedience to the ruling of their imam—should continue to follow the path of resistance and should not fear the satanic strength of arrogance and colonialism.

Further on Majlis Support

LD2202203789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Following the release of some sections of the very important message of Imam Khomeyni addressed to the Islamic authorities [maraji], members of the clergy throughout the country, the instructors and students from religious seminaries, and Friday and congregational imams, the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, wrote the following letter to the imam of the ummah:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Those who reject the truth among the people of the book and among the polytheists are not going to depart from their ways until there should come to them clear evidence. [Koranic verse] The crushing message of the great imam, which is conveying a resounding message through the words: as long as I am alive, arouses us who regard him to be always alive to continue a great battle against colonialism and arrogance, and warns us that the old animosity of blasphemous antireligionists against Islam and Muslims will never come to an end and that the fire of their hatred and enmity will not be extinguished even for a moment.

The insults that have been directed at the sacred dignity of the prophet of Islam and the holy companions and pure wives of his holiness in the perverted book, "The Satanic Verses," are unprecedented since the inception of Islam. The support of the United States—the great Satan—the colonialist Britain, and the EEC members countries for the writer of this black book, and the devious involvement [atash-biyari] of criminal Zionism in this filthy affair are the signs of a dangerous conspiracy against true Islam and revolutionary Muslims.

We the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, who always learn the lesson of struggle from our awake, great, and uncompromising imam and leader, as the result of his eminence's constant insistence in all of his guidelines, especially today's very important message, and inspired by this lofty and awakening call, announce that:

1. We will never be deceived by the pretence of friendship by these arch enemies of Islam and will regard ourselves immune from their satanic deceits.

2. The leaders and ulema of Islamic countries must make Muslim nations aware of the depth of this crime and, in the face of this satanic attack, should create a front in a manly manner.

3. Muslim ulema and members of clergy, whether Shi'i or Sunni, who are the inheritors of the knowledge of the prophet and who owe their dignity and respect to his holiness, should loudly raise their voices and in their fiery sermons, statements, and speeches, should safeguard the sanctity of Islam's sacred beliefs. Through guiding Muslim ummahs, they should crush this dastardly onslaught and defeat the evil enemy, which has waged a direct and open war not only on Islam but on all divine religions.

4. Those who are responsible for drafting the country's foreign policy, especially the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all other responsible authorities and institutions, must take a mighty and steadfast stand against this blatant aggression aimed at the sanctity of our spirituality and convictions. They should do so not reactively, but aggressively. In taking such a stand, they must not be afraid of the enemy's baseless authoritative arrogance. They must present to foreign diplomacy the imam's word as the final word.

5. Continuation of the policy of keeping aloof from the great Satan, rejection of any thought of friendship with that arch enemy, the cutting off of relations with colonialist Britain, and reciprocal action toward the stances and plots of European countries who have adopted a hostile policy toward us are among the necessary details of the exact and decisive geometry [as heard] drawn up by the imam.

6. The great and self-sacrificing Iranian nation, who in the course of 10 years has safeguarded the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran with their blood, bone, lives, and possessions, by obeying and following the rules of their imam, should continue to follow the path of resistance and should not fear the satanic strength of the arrogant and colonialists because: The friends of God have no fears and no sadness. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly

Musavi Explains Dispute With EEC Countries

LD2202121989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, during an interview granted to reporters this morning, explained the stances of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in neutralizing the conspiracies of global arrogance and the European Common Market.

According to a report of the central news unit, referring to the fact that an extensive conspiracy had been hatched against Islam which was foiled by Imam Khomeyni's edict, Mr Musavi said: This type of onslaught is a new move that global arrogance has started after its defeat in the face of Islam; and we shall not leave these attacks unanswered.

Continuing his remarks, the prime minister said: As a whole, this move is in our interest and one of the blessings of this conspiracy is the unprecedented unity of the government and the nation as shown in the original slogans.

Assails 'Feeble Reaction'

LD2202183489 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—The future of Iran's ties with Western governments hinges on their ultimate attitude towards Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] calling for execution of apostate Salman Rushdie, said the premier in a press conference today.

Mir Hoseyn Musavi warned that "the Government of the Islamic Republic is ready for any consequences arising from the issue which is certainly bound to influence Iran's foreign policy."

Referring to the 12-member European Community's decision to pull out envoys from Tehran in obvious defence of a Muslim heretic, Musavi made it clear that "the West's move will not go unanswered. In fact Iran's firm decisions on the issue will ensure the independence and dignity of the country."

On February 14, the leader of the Islamic revolution decreed death penalty for British author Salman Rushdie, and all those knowingly involved in the publication of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses" which slanders Islam and all values held dear by the planet's over one billion Muslims.

Believers all over the globe have widely acclaimed the imam's just fatwa against the Indian born apostate's Satanic work, which has spilled Muslim blood in Pakistan and India.

On threats voiced by President George Bush yesterday, Musavi said "it would only help deepen Muslims' hatred towards the U.S. whether in Iran or other Islamic countries," and reminded Washington of Iranian people's resolve against such threats.

On ties with Britain, he said they were suspended and Iran's recalling of its charge d'affaires reflects Tehran's stance.

"Our strategic location puts the West in an awkward position and it would certainly be at a disadvantage in any encounter with Iran," he added.

Turning to the East Bloc, the premier said "of course, they would figure in effectively in the Islamic Republic foreign policy." [sentence as received]

He denied any connection between West's reaction toward the Rushdie affair and the postponement of the Iraq-Iran military officers' talks, and said the talks would be held after technical problems are sorted out.

Musavi also castigated the feeble reaction of Muslim governments towards Rushdie's "Satanic affair", and said it is time Muslims paid attention to superpower hostilities towards Islam.

Pointing to the widening rift between rulers and people in Muslim countries, the Iranian premier called on these governments to safeguard their Islamic identity and clarify stands in this regard.

"The Satanic plot smells of cultural conspiracy on the part of global arrogance which is desparately trying to tarnish the glowing image of the Islamic government, he said and cited as reasons the Islam's lofty code which guarantees independence and dignity for nations and endangers the vested interests of superpowers.

Rushdie's blasphemy which has created an uproar throughout the world, has also been instrumental in tearing apart the mask of hypocrisy from the West's sinister visage which along with the illicit Zionist entity is emerging as the evil mind behind.

Failing to calculate the imam's iron will resolve the West blundered once again by adopting an irrational stand against Iran thereby betraying its tacit support for a sentenced criminal with a price on his head whom Muslims have vowed to despatch to the bottoms of hell. [sentence as received]

Baku Commentary Calls EEC Move 'Unprincipled'

LD2202132889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Radio Baku, which belongs to Soviet Azarbayjan, in a commentary described the EEC countries' decision to recall their ambassadors from Iran as an unprincipled and biased move. According to the report of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, that radio added: Western countries should have known that the printing and publication of the book "the Satanic Verses," in which there are explicit insults against the sanctities of Islam, would be confronted with the reaction of the world's Muslims.

Radio Baku said the decision of the Western countries in calling back their representatives from Tehran is a biased measure, because if these countries were to have made decisions that were unbiased, they should have also recalled their ambassadors from other countries in which reaction of some kind has been shown toward the printing and publication of the book "Satanic Verses."

Khamene'i Says 'Arrow' on Way to Rushdie

AU2202113189 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Belgrade, Feb 22 (AFP)—Iranian President Ali Khamene'i hinted here Wednesday that an operation to kill British author Salman Rushdie was already underway.

"The arrow has already been fired and is currently travelling toward its target," said the president speaking about Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's kill order issued against the author of "The Satanic Verses" that has provoked outrage among Western countries.

British antiterrorist experts have said that an Iranian death squad could already be in Britain where Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding with police protection since the threat was made last week.

Mr. Khamene'i, who was speaking at the end of a two-day visit to Yugoslavia, denied there were any differences between himself and Ayatollah Khomeyni over the Rushdie affair.

"A billion Muslims have been offended," he commented. "There is no solution to the affair." [passage omitted]

In Yugoslavia, the BORBA daily started publishing parts of the book on the day the Iranian president arrived, but stopped the next day after telephone threats were made.

Khamene'i Arrives on 2-Day Visit to Romania

For Iranian and Romanian reportage on the 2-day visit by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and his accompanying delegation to Romania, including reports on his talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, please see the Romania section of the 23 February East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Editorial on Implications of Ties With U.S.

NC2202124689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 89 p 3

[Editorial by M. Ellini: "Will Renewal of U.S. Ties Be Setback for Iran?"]

[Text] Is the renewal of ties between Iran and the United States a political setback for the former? Different political circles might react differently to this question. The front, however, adhering to Islamic principles considers any renewal of relations with the U.S. downright deviation from the revolution's foreign policy tactics. This front adamantly opposes the revival of cordial ties with the U.S. believing that adherence to the revolution's theoretic and political campaign against the U.S. clearly signals the continuation of the original line of the revolution which materialized on February 11, 1979.

In the eyes of this front the severance of relations with the U.S. signifies a permanent political standard and any deviation from this norm will adversely affect the fundamentals of the Islamic revolution. The group comrpising this front are influential elements in the decision-making bodies of the country such as Majlis and the government. This front happens to have a strong base among student circles.

A more realistic analysis of the issue, however, might render a different interpretation of the problem. In this line of thinking the speculation is that political levers should not be considered as absolute phenomena. Absolute views towards political levers can plunge a politician into a dead-end rendering gradual retreat by him inevitable. It is of course quite natural that a revolution devoid of its ideological grounds will finally diverge from its propitious course. Yet realism is a logical phenomenon that can safeguard the revolution and its management from repeated political setbacks.

An efficient and penetrating foreign policy is characterized by certain features and principles which are unalterable but dependent on circumstances. A dynamic political doctrine will be capable of directing a crisis and rendering a logically balanced strategy in favor of the national interests through manipulating the existing political levers.

It is of course indubitably true that the establishment of ties with the U.S. and the West is intricate eliciting certain sensitivities. Therefore, it would be premature to embark on taking such an strategic decision on the basis of an abstract review of the case. What is indeed called for is a thorough scrutiny of the issue. It can of course be easily claimed that one can not be sentimental towards such vital political issues. It is perhaps possible to set out defending a political belief through eliciting emotional responses from a group of people. Yet it will be demonstrated here that emotions acting in favor of a political factor might turn against it with the slightest changes in the circumstances. Therefore, it all boils down to the fact that the intricate political phenomena that can be somewhat controlled by effective political techniques should not be turned into stalemated political issues. The Islamic revolutionary principles are based on experimenting and learning which can not be delimited in closed political moulds.

Negation of exploitative and imperialistic outlook lies in the bedrock of the Islamic Revolution's tenets shaped up on February 11, 1979. It is also natural that the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic relations with its northern neighbor that is Russia can not go beyond the level of ignoring this principle. Indeed what has bore fruitful political consequences in the case of the Russians is their adoption of skillful political maneuvers precluding direct and face-to-face political and military confrontation with Iran.

With all this in view, the severance of relations, with the U.S. or the renewal of ties with it does not comprise a standard machine gauging the degree of deviation from the revolution's principles. Yet given a change of attitude on the part of the U.S. and a change in circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran can take time probing into the renewal of ties with the U.S. if the Americans end their hostility and show goodwill.

Montazeri Comments on 'Anti-Islamic Propaganda'
LD2102202589 Tehran IRNA in English 1939 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Qom, Feb. 21, IRNA—Silence of Islamic preachers against the anti-Islamic propaganda launched by the U.S., Soviet and Zionist agents is "a sin", Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said here Monday. The designated leader of the Islamic Republic was addressing a group of theologians back from the war fronts and people from all walks of life on the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali (A.S.) [God's peace on him], the first imam of the prophet's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] infallible household.

The ayatollah referred to the importance of science and knowledge in today's world and said people from all strata of society should strive to promote their level of knowledge. He called for concrete planning in this area, to which Islam attaches vital importance.

Exhorting people and officials to the simple but eventful life of Imam 'Ali (A.S.) [God's peace on him] as a model, Ayatollah Montazeri said "Revolutionary Muslim youth are ready to counter all plots against Islam."

Information Ministry Official on Amnesty
NC2302090289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Mr 'Ebadyan, an informed official at the Ministry of Information, while speaking on the sidelines of the meeting of allegiance by prisoners of minigroups who fall under the amnesty granted by the imam of the ummah, stated that programs have been drawn up for ex-prisoners to find jobs and to continue their education. He added that these programs will be implemented with the help of the country's government agencies.

Referring to examples of people who were misled by minigroups and who have applied to embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Europe and in the Persian Gulf, he said: As the Islamic Republic of Iran has stated repeatedly, our embassies abroad will welcome such people. We welcome such people inside the country as well.

This informed official of the Information Ministry pointed out that the Islamic Republic's door of mercy is open to all those who have been misled by minigroups. He added that the general amnesty of prisoner-members of minigroups took place on the basis of Islamic principles and Islamic mercy. He added that the situation of the other minigroup prisoners, and even those of higher level officials of the minigroups, is being studied and steps for their release will be taken in later stages.

With regard to the views of the prisoners who fall under the amnesty of the imam of the ummah, Mr 'Ebadyan said: We have nothing to do with the beliefs of these people. The basic thing is that they do not confront the system with arms and that they do not attempt murder.

Ex-Prisoners Express Allegiance to Khomeyni
NC2302081389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Prisoners who were formerly members of minigroups and who are covered by the amnesty extended by the imam of the ummah, issued a resolution yesterday expressing allegiance to the imam. In the resolution, which they issued at the conclusion of a meeting in Vahdat hall, they express their unlimited gratitude for the paternal kindness shown by Imam Khomeyni in granting a general amnesty to prisoners who formerly belonged to minigroups, and state their condemnation of any action that seeks to upset the free and calm political atmosphere of the country created under the aegis of the Constitution.

The resolution also lauds the Muslim Iranians for their heroic resistance during the superpowers' economic and military siege and during the 8 years of imposed war. At the same time, the counterrevolutionary minigroups' siding—to the extent of spying and military complicity with domestic and foreign enemies of the revolution and of the Islamic homeland—is described as an element that gave rise to the abhorrence of the people and of freedom-lovers for these minigroups.

The resolution also calls on the families of the supporters of counterrevolutionary parties and minigroups in Iran and abroad to carry out a comprehensive and deep study of the record of these minigroups and to come to their senses as soon as possible and leave these minigroups to return to the arms of [word indistinct] and of the Islamic revolution.

More on Resolution
LD2302092889 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Freed members of the counterrevolutionary grouplets ended a one-day 'allegiance with the imam' gathering here Wednesday [22 February] afternoon by issuing a resolution condemning any move aimed at disturbing the freedom and political calm in the country.

Some 800 of the prisoners who have been discharged under the recent amnesty given by Imam Khomeyni, gathered at Tehran's Vahdat Hall and several of them addressed the gathering on attitude of the counterrevolutionary grouplets in the first decade of the Islamic revolution.

The resolution described the ideology of the grouplets as one with heretic tendencies and attached to foreign powers and political schools of thought.

Consequently, added the resolution, performance of these groups has been detrimental to goals and aspirations of the nation and in the first decade of the revolution was in line with objectives of imperialism and enemies of Iran's freedom and independence.

It added that the heroic resistance of the Iranian Muslim people against wide-range plots of big powers including imposition of economic sanctions and the Iraqi-imposed war, is indicative of the strength and glory of the Islamic revolution and the massive popular support that it enjoys.

The resolution stressed that the grouplets since the beginning have had no popular backing and therefore, in order to survive they have had to become a tool in the hands of the oppressive powers of East and West and be financed by them.

The resolution also appealed to sympathisers of the grouplets both inside and outside the country to thoroughly study performance of the grouplets and then denounce it and return to Islam.

At the end it added that the Islamic Revolution in its second decade must lay the foundation for economic independence. The oppressors of East and West which find this detrimental to their interests, were busy plotting to prevent this.

In order to attain this goal, said the resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran must enjoy free and calm political atmosphere under the constitutional law of the country. Therefore, any move which may upset this is strongly condemned and will be severely confronted.

At the end the participants expressed their gratitude to Imam Khomeyni for his fatherly love and granting amnesty.

Ever since the amnesty was granted early this month prisoners have been released in batches and all but 900 of the 3,500 prisoners will be discharged by Mach 20. The 900 are involved in serious crimes.

The first secretary of the dissolved pro-Soviet Tudeh Party, Nureddin Kianuri, addrfessing the gathering as the guest speaker said the minigroups whether attached to the Soviet Union or to the U.S. were involved in espionage for the Baghdad regime, bomb plantings, murder, crime and passing important military information to the enemy.

Kianuri, arrested in 1983, told the gathering that all pro-Soviet groups on the orders of the Soviet Communist Party were following the policy of armed confrontation against the (?Islamic) [word indistinct] Iran.

In a bid to form a united front, the Tudeh Party adopted the tactic of forming an alliance with the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, he added.

He said the move against the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the interest of the U.S., was not initiated by the party, but rather ordered by Soviet officials.

Turning to the Soviet request for information on sophisticated American weapons, he said as the highest responsible official at the party he assigned some party members to spy and to this end effective people from military forces were recruited forming the military organization, he said, adding they were relaying information to the Soviet officials. "Our party was getting financial support from the Soviet Communist Party and sold the foreign exchange it received at the black market," he added.

"The party infiltration member pretending to be Muslims, to government organs so that they could use their posts to push the Islamic Republic policies into closer ties with the Soviet Union and other East European countries and work to reduce relations with the West," told the former party leader.

In conclusion he apologized to the nation, the leadership and all sympathizers and members of the party who by following the party line without being aware of its wrong policies put themselves in trouble. Kianuri also said he did not expect amnesty from Iranian officials.

Assassination Order Meets 'Negative Reaction'

TA2102144489 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that Ruhollah Khomeyni's order to assassinate Salman Rushdie has been met by a totally negative reaction in religious circles in Tehran, Qom, and Mashhad.

Grand Ayatollahs Mar'ashi Najafi, Mohammad Reza Golpaygani, and Sadeq Rohani, as well as Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in Qom, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Tabataba'i Qomi in Mashhad, and other ulema in our country have not endorsed Khomeyni's order to assassinate Salman Rushdie.

Furthermore, the Shi'ite 'ulema in Najaf and Karbala', especially Grand Ayatollah Kho'i, have remained silent. Our fellow strugglers add that in response to believers who

have posed questions in this respect the grand ayatollahs answered that they have no information about the content of Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" and that as long as they have not personally read the book, they are not prepared to comment on it, let alone endorse Khomeyni's order to assassinate its author.

Pakistan

Punjab Chief Minister Charges PPP 'Conspiracy'

BK2002131089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2041 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Faisalabad, Pakistan, Feb 19 (AFP)—Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif charged Sunday that rioting by textile workers here last week was a conspiracy by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to destabilise his state government.

Mr. Sharif, speaking to industrialists here, said law and order would be maintained in the province at any cost.

A curfew was clamped on this industrial city last Monday for the first time in 12 years after workers protesting the death of a fellow labourer went on the rampage, burning factories, government buildings, shops and vehicles.

Mr. Sharif, who is also leader of the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), said his government had "valid proof" that PPP workers were involved in the labour riots.

He accused the PPP of conspiring to destabilise his government by creating industrial unrest.

Mr. Sharif said factories here were burnt "in a systematic manner, in a way that industrial units bearing IJI flags were set ablaze," adding that normally workers would not burn the factories that paid them their wages.

Punjab Government Seen Inciting Riots

BK2202153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Mr Ahmad Sayeed Awan, a member of the National Assembly from Faisalabad, has proposed that a joint parliamentary committee be set up to probe recent incidents in Faisalabad. The committee's investigation should seek to expose the elements behind this incident.

In a statement, he alleged the incident was masterminded by the Islamic Democratic Alliance administration to create chaos and instability in the country. The National Assembly member further alleged that the businessman who killed the laborer which caused the trouble was a close associate of the Punjab chief minister. Mr Ahmad Sayeed Awan expressed apprehension that the administration deliberately provoked the laborers and the police stood by and let public property be destroyed.

Minister Comments on Afghan Missile Threat

BK2302113089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The National Assembly today continued discussions on the foreign policy. Two members took part in the discussion today. Earlier, the Federal Minister [for health, education and social welfare] Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi assured the house that the government is aware of the deployment of Scud missiles on the Afghan border with Pakistan and has taken all the measures for the defense of the country. He gave the assurance while speaking on three identical adjournment motions which pointed out that the deployment of the missiles threatened important cities and installations in the country.

Jet Trainer Developed With PRC Assistance

BK2102104789 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Feb 89 p 1, 8

[By Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 9—In collaboration with China, the Pakistan Air Force is working to develop a jet trainer aircraft, the Karakorum 8 [K-8]. Named after the mountain range that links the two countries, the first prototype of the jet trainer is expected to roll off the assembly line in mid-1990. The basic jet trainer will also have limited ground attack capability.

The aircraft will be produced at Kamra as a joint venture between the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) and Nanchang Aircraft Manufacturing Company. It's estimated cost is $2.1 million [currency not further specified], half of what an equivelant aircraft costs. The Spanish Casa Ariojet for example, costs about $4.5 million. The K-8's operating cost per hour of flying is also estimated to be less than a quarter that of jet trainers of the same performance class. This should make the K-8 a first rate basic jet trainer in terms of both cost effectiveness and training capability.

At present the bulk of basic jet training is done on T37s, manufactured by Cessna, which have been is use for over twenty years. For primary flying training, the Mushshak (Saab MF1-17) is used. An elementary trainer, Mushshak is a light single piston-engined two seat aircraft, being manufactured since the mid-seventies, at the Aircraft Manufacturing Factory at Kamra.

Work on developing Karakorum 8 started in July 1987, when a team of Pakistani and Chinese engineers began designing the aircraft in China. A wooden model of this was displayed at the Farnborough Air Show as well as Asian Dex in Beijing last year.

K-8 will have an American Garrett engine, a TFE-731-2A. This is an advanced turbo fan engine (also fitted in Casa) which has substantial advantages in maintenance, reliability and economy over other engines of its kind.

The engine has a full authority digital electronic fuel control system which permits rapid throttle movement, without any risk of engine stall. It also has a low specific fuel consumption.

The aircraft will have a modern two place cockpit with Collins Electronic Flight Instrument System or EFIS-86 avionics. The instrument grouping in the cockpit has been laid to ensure an effective cross field view, which is regarded as fundamental for good instrument flying training as well as meet the needs of bad weather and night flying.

Unlike standard Chinese designs, the K-8 will be equipped with a nose wheel steering system, which will ensure adequate agility. It will also be installed with a modern Martin Baker ejection system. This will provide easy egress from the aircraft at zero forward speed and zero altitude in an emergency situation [sentence as published].

The K-8 has been designed with very stable aerodynamic characteristics at low speeds. The wing design is inherently spin resistant. This will permit easy handling during low speed and high angles of incidence conditions, a feature deemed important for trainee pilots. The aircraft will have a maximum speed of about 430 knots (500 miles) an hour at sea level or Mach 0.75 at altitude. The flight controls will have a simple mechanical system in the pitch mode, while the ailerons will be hydraulically boosted to enable the pilot to achieve a good rate of roll, especially in the medium speed regime.

Take off and landing distances of the aircraft are expected to vary between 1500-2500 feet—depending upon ambient temperatures.

Designers of the K-8 have been guided by the two goals of reliability and easy maintenance. The airframe is mainly riveted alluminium augmented by the selective use of composite material for simple maintenance and repair. It has been designed to have a damage-resistant structural integrity with a long fatigue life of 8000 flight hours.

The rear fuselage design embodies the concept of a downward opening engine belly panel. This will facilitate easier removal and installation of the engine as well as allow correction of engine defects without removing the engine from the airplane.

Production of the Karakorum-8 will be another feather in the PAC's cap. It will be a small, but important, step towards self-reliance in defence production in general and the aeronautical field in particular. The PAC at Kamra currently headed by Air Vice Marshal Farooq Omar already has a successful record of completely overhauling engines and airframes of Mirage and F-6 aircraft as well as manufacture of Mushshak MFI-17 aircraft.

The PAC was set up during the first PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government, in 1975, when the Air Force was headed by Air Chief Marshal Zulfiqar Ali Khan.

75 F-7 Fighters To Be Purchased From PRC

BK2102105589 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Feb 89 p 1, 8

[By Kaleem Omar]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 10—A deal under which Pakistan will buy 75 F-7 fighter aircraft from the People's Republic of China, to add to a squadron of F-7s acquired earlier and already in service, has been finalised and is expected to be signed by officials of the two countries during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Beijing, according to informed sources.

The E-7 aircraft, which are the Chinese version of the Soviet Mikoyan MiG-21, are being sold to Pakistan at a highly concessional price of around 3 million dollars [currency not further specified] each. This compares very favourably with the price of 4.9 million dollars per aircraft at which 100 F-7Ms will be supplied to the Iran Air Force by China under a deal concluded recently.

The F-7s being sold to Pakistan will replace the Pakistan Air Force's [PAF] ageing F-6 aircraft acquired from China earlier, some of them as far back as mid-1960s.

Forty of the F-6s being phased out will reportedly go to Bangladesh under a lend-lease deal. This will enable the Bangladesh Air Force to form three additional fighter squadrons, one of which will be based at Kurmitola, another at Chittagong, and the third at a new base in the northeastern part of the country.

As a part of its expansion programme, the PAF also plans to buy 50 secondhand Mirage III-O fighter aircraft from the Royal Australian Air Force at a cost of around one million dollars apiece, sources said.

They said it will cost another 1.5 million dollars or so per aircraft to bring the Mirages up to PAF's operational standards. Thus the total cost per aircraft will be around 2.5 million dollars.

The cost of secondhand Mirage III aircraft if bought from a European country would be around 5 million dollars to 6 million dollars apiece at current prices. Buying the Mirages from Australia will thus save the PAF between 2.5 million dollars to 3.5 million dollars per aircraft, giving it a total saving of between 125 million dollars to 175 million dollars for 50 aircraft.

The deal with the Royal Australian Air Force has been under negotiation for some time and is expected to be concluded soon, sources said.

They said the PAF will also be getting 12 more F-16 fighter aircraft from the United States under the current 4.02 billion dollars US economic and military aid package, to add to the 40 F-16s acquired several years ago under the previous 3.6 billion dollars US aid package.

The new F-16s are being acquired for a reported 17 million dollars apiece, whereas those acquired earlier had cost around 25 million dollars each.

Meanwhile, the American magazine 'AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY' reported in a recent issue that the F-7M Saber-2 upgraded aircraft programme proposed in 1987 as a trilateral deal between Grumman Aircraft Corporation of the United States, China and Pakistan was rejected by the PAF last year because the estimated 300 million dollars development cost was too high.

AVIATION WEEK said the PAF also expressed concern that the Saber-2 would be unable to counter the threat posed by such aircraft as the Indian Air Force's MiG-29s.

In view of the PAF's reservations, the proposed trilateral Saber-2 development programme has been scrapped.

Instead, the People's Republic of China and Grumman now propose to develop a different version of an upgraded F-7M, on which they began preliminary design work last November. The single-seat, single-engine aircraft has been named the Super-7.

Grumman and CATIC (the China National Aero Technology Import-Export Corp.) are tailoring the Super-7 as a newly manufactured low-technology, low-cost aircraft to complement the USAF/General Dynamics F-16 in a high-low fighter mix, AVIATION WEEK reported.

It said potential customers for the new aircraft include the Pakistani, Egyptian and Thai air forces, and quoted a Grumman spokesman as claiming that there is a potential market for more than 200 Super-7s, which would have a fly-away cost of under 10 million dollars each.

To achieve performance improvements over those projected for the now abandoned Saber-2, the Grumman-/Chinese Super-7 design team is expected to incorporate a new forward fuselage and cockpit, a Western engine, a redesigned wing, nose-wheel steering and two additional storage stations.

According to AVIATION WEEK, the aircraft would be capable of delivering Sidewinder and Sparrow-type missiles, Maverick-type infrared missiles for ground attack and Penguin anti-ship missiles.

Aft fuselage changes will also be included in the Super-7 design. A new aircraft-mounted accessory unit similar to that used on the F-16 will provide the aircraft with a self-starting capability.

Internal fuel capacity will be increased by about 1,100 lbs to lengthen mission duration, and a single-point refueling capability will be added. Currently, each fuel tank in an F-7 must be fueled separately.

First Satellite Ready For Launching

BK1702171989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] The first Pakistani satellite has been completed by the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, Suparco, and is ready for launching into space. The satellite, named (Badar-Alif), has been manufactured completely by indigenous means and all its systems, subsystems, and instruments have been designed and fabricated by Pakistani engineers. The satellite will collect information from ground stations and dispatch them to any destination that falls within its journey. The (Badar-Alif) will have a circular orbit of 300 to 400 km above the earth in space and will be over Pakistan's horizon four to six times every 24 hours.

Heroin, Hashish Seized by Customs at Peshawar

BK1702154989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] A patrol party of customs officials at Peshawar camp seized 15 kg of heroin and hashish from a car today. The narcotics, concealed in car seats, were coming from Khyber Agency.

Bid To Smuggle 13,000 Kilos of Hashish Foiled

BK1802002789 Hong Kong AFP in English 2009 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Karachi, Feb 17 (AFP)—Pakistani Excise Police here Friday foiled an attempt to smuggle 13,000 kilograms (28,600 pounds) of hashish to a Middle Eastern country, officials said. The hashish was hidden inside steel pre-fabricated bridge beams which had been manufactured here for export to the Middle East, the officials said, without specifying to which country the consignment was destined.

Three people were arrested in connection with the haul, and investigations were continuing, they said. The drugs would have fetched over one billion U.S. dollars on the international market, the officials said.

In a separate haul, police seized 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of heroin smuggled in from tribal areas and destined for Peshawar in the north western province bordering Afghanistan, officials said.

Sri Lanka

Indians To Stay Until Police Force Established

BK2302094089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 23 Feb 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 23 (AFP)—Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated north and east will stay on until a police force is established in the region, the

foreign minister said here Thursday. Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who is also minister for defence, said it will take at least six more months to estabish a police force and civil administration in the two battle-scarred areas.

Mr. Wijeratne told reporters here that President Ranasinghe Premadasa wanted the Indians to leave, but the withdrawal will not be done "for the sake of moving them back."

"Indian troops will go away when President Premadasa asks them to go. That is the agreement," Mr. Wijeratne said. Since Mr. Premadasa's election in December, India had withdrawn at least four battalions out of the 45,000 to 50,000 strong Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Northern and Eastern Provinces, Mr. Wijeratne said.

Earlier in the month, Mr. Premadasa told a public rally: "I told the Indian Government that the IPKF's job is now over, that they can go back. The pullout is methodically being done." Mr. Premadasa is a known critic of the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which India sent its troops to the island. He has said he wants to exchange the pact for a bilateral friendship treaty based on "more reciprocity."

However, he warned that a sudden withdrawal of Indian soldiers would lead to attacks on the legally-constituted provincial administration by the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). "Once we are satisfied that the chief minister of the Northeastern Provincial Council will be able to maintain law and order, we will hasten the withdrawal of the IPKF."

"If we ask them (Indians) for the sake of moving them out of the country and cause a vacuum, the LTTE forces may attack the legally constituted provincial government," Mr. Wijeratne said. The LTTE, which is waging a bloody bush war against Indian troops and the Sinhalese militant group, Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) have been continuing a violent campaign demanding withdrawal of Indian troops. The Sinhalese form the majority community in Sri Lanka.

"We don't want to be foolish just to satisfy the whims of a few individual extremists among the Sinhalese and Tamils," Mr. Wijeratne said, adding that the Northeast Council should be given time to constitute its police force. District officials said 7,000 men, mostly Tamils, had joined the Civil Volunteer Force (CVF) and were now being trained in the north and east. CVF trainees will be absorbed into the police force, they said.

Mr. Wijeratne spoke to reporters just hours after suspected LTTE men attacked a Sinhalese village bordering a Tamil area killing at least six and wounding 10. Mr. Wijeratne said LTTE activists carried out the pre-dawn attack on Sinhapura village while the victims were sleeping, cutting them with swords and burning them inside their homes. It was the second attack on Sinhalese civilians in the area in less than two weeks.

On February 12, LTTE activists raided neighbouring Dutuwewa village in Anuradhapura District and killed 34 Sinhalese. In another development in the island's south, suspected JVP activists shot dead three aides of a communist party leader in Elpitiya village late Wednesday, police said. The JVP has been acused of killing over 2,200 rivals in the past 18 months.

President Premadasa Addresses New Ministers

BK1802110089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0941 GMT 18 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item—quotation marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 18, (LANKAPUVATH)— President Ranasinghe Premadasa addressing the ministers on their assumption of office today said "Let me now welcome you as my first cabinet of ministers and my chosen team to help me lead our country out of fear into security and out of poverty into prosperity.

In order to accomplish the tasks entrusted to us by the people we must at all times be mindful that we are going to work for all the people in this country. We must scrupulously refrain from doing anything which would encourage discrimination or perpetuate political rivalries.

The Constitution charges me with the exercise of the executive power of the people, including the defence of Sri Lanka. Article 4 (b) stipulates that executive power "shall be exercised by the president elected by the people". I have been so elected. I bear the constitutional and political responsibility to exercise executive power and am solely accountable to the people in this regard.

Under the Constitution of this country and in terms of the mandate given by the people, the president appoints ministers in his sole discretion and the executive powers and responsibilities of every minister flow from such appointment. Politically and constitutionally ministers are delegates of the president appointed to assist him in his exercise of the executive power. The position in Sri Lanka is now entirely different from that of the Westminister model in which a minister constitutionally derives his power and responsibility from his appointment by the head of state and not from the head of government, i.e. the prime minister.

The provision in Article 43 (i) according to which the cabinet is "charged with the direction and control of the government" is subordinate to Article 4 (b). I am accountable to the sovereign people for the exercise of executive power by every minister. I, therefore, have the duty to supervise the work of all ministries. I cannot and shall not stint in this duty. I trust that you would wholeheartedly cooperate with me in the fulfillment of my task.

I am not appointing any minister on any understanding that he has a fixed term of office. I may change a minister from one portfolio to another where I consider this desirable in the best interests of the country. I will judge you solely on your performance and on the quality of the service to the people. You will appreciate that any minister failing in his performance cannot expect to continue to hold office. Where I change a portfolio or remove a minister from office altogether, I do not expect to be asked for reasons. The interests of the country and of the people shall be my guide, never expediency or bias for or against individuals.

I draw the attention of ministers to the fact that I have created a ministry of policy planning and implementation under my charge. The basis for policy planning will be our election manifesto. I would like each minister to establish a separate unit in his ministry with the responsibility for ensuring that the legislative programme, regulatory functions and development work implemented by his ministry are based on the manifesto. They should be in accord with policy directives coming from me with respect to the subjects and functions of each ministry. The programme of each ministry must also be executed within the approved budget and accomplished within the given time frames.

I expect every minister to regard the elimination of waste and corruption as one of his highest priorities. Ours is a developing country and the poverty of the masses is our principal concern. Freeing them from poverty is our immediate task.

Every minister must be circumspect in the expenditure of public funds. He must carry out the functions assigned to him with the staff presently available. The Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation will very quickly complete an assessment of manpower requirements at all levels in each ministry. Ministers are also requested to review the staff, accommodation, equipment, vehicles and other resources already available to them and effect necessary changes and improvements so as to ensure optimum utilization of these resources. The Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation will provide all the necessary assistance in this regard. No new buildings are now necessary for offices of ministries and the institutions under them.

A cabinet minister will be provided with his personal staff, one private secretary, one public relations officer and one co-ordinating officer. A minister of state will have one private secretary and one co-ordinating officer only.

Each minister should take action to reconstitute the boards of directors of all corporations, statutory boards and authorities assigned to him. Every appointment to such boards of directors must receive my prior approval, and requests for covering approval should be avoided.

Ministers should not arrange foreign visits or undertake them without my prior approval obtained well in advance. In seeking my approval full details of the proposed missions and the necessity thereof should be made available to me. The ministers should adopt the same procedure before recommendations are forwarded to me in respect of foreign visits of officials in their respective ministries.

Ministers must make frequent field inspections and keep themselves personally informed of progress of programmes under their charge in the various parts of the country.

While I would have an effective national operations room, I would like every minister to have an operations room in his ministry to monitor progress of work on the projects and the programmes undertaken by his ministry. I propose to visit every ministry myself from time to time and would like personally to see that these operations rooms are run effectively and efficiently. I will also make field visits myself.

I wish to emphasize the need for secrecy of discussions in cabinet. The principle of collective responsibility must be adhered to. Once decisions are made in cabinet they should not be the subject of debate by ministers in public. All ministers must speak with one voice.

Cabinet ministers must devote their attention to policy formulation and appropriate oversight of programme implementation. They must not get tied down to trivialities and details of programmes of staff. Ministers of state on the other hand must maintain first hand contact with the departments and other institutions within their areas of responsibility assigned to them by me.

It is essential that ministers set high standards of conduct on all occasions. This is an integral aspect of the responsibility of leadership. Let us now go forward to make our vision of a stable and prosperous Sri Lanka a reality.

Bomb Blast Kills Two in Colombo 21 Feb

BK2102122189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 21 (AFP)—A bomb went off outside a shop here Tuesday, killing at least two people and wounding several others, witnesses said. The bomb exploded in the capital's Narahenpita District after a shopkeeper who was the target flung it back into a crowded street, the witnesses told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

A cyclist had hurled the bomb inside the shop, which was open despite a Sinhalese rebel-sponsored strike to protest against last week's parliamentary polls won by President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party (UNP). No further details were immediately available.

Most major markets here and several other areas were shut Tuesday in apparent response to the strike called by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), an anti-government Sinhalese militant group.

Army troops were seen going around some areas in the capital, forcibly opening shops by tying iron chains to the grills and ripping them apart with the help of armoured personel carriers. A lone gunman riding a motorcycle had earlier Tuesday shot dead a restaurant owner here, but it could not be known if the murder was linked to the strike.